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A TOUR

THROUGH

CORNWALL,

IN THE

AUTUMN OF 1808.

A TOUR

THROUGH

CORNWALL,

IN THE

AUTUMN OF 1808.

BY THE

Rev^d. Richard Warner,

OF BATH.

Σα γαρ εστι κεινα παντα.

" Creation's Tenant, all the world is thine!"

PRINTED BY

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1809.

DA
670
C8W24

TO

THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY,

THE CLERGY,

MINE-PROPRIETORS, & MERCHANTS,

OF

CORNWALL,

THE FOLLOWING WORK,

AN HUMBLE, BUT GRATEFUL RETURN,

FOR

THE PLEASURE HE RECEIVED,

THE INFORMATION HE ACQUIRED,

AND

THE HOSPITALITY HE EXPERIENCED,

IN A TOUR

THROUGH THAT COUNTY,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY THEIR OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

BATH, FEB. 1, 1809.

708970

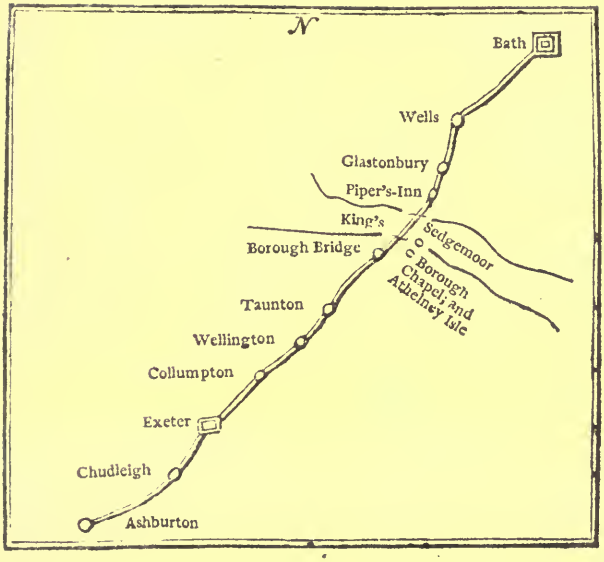
ITINERARY.

	Miles.
From Bath to Exeter, by new road	78
Chudleigh	9
Ashburton	12
Ivy Bridge	15
Plymouth	10
Dock	2
Anthony, by Tremarton and Mount Edgcumbe	13
East Looe	11
Fowey	15
St. Austle	7
Truro	13
Penrhyn	7
Falmouth	2
Pendennis, and back	3
St. Ives, by the Tolmen, Carn-bre, Dolcooth, Phillack, &c.	36
Penzance	8
Marazion, by Sennar, Logan-Stone, Mouschole, &c.	30
Helston	10
Truro, by Mullion, Lizard, Gweek, &c.	38
St. Columb	15
Padstow, by Kistvaen, &c.	12
Tintagel, by Dinabole, &c.	15

	Miles.
Brought over	361
Camelford, by Bossiney, &c.	8
Stratton	18
Kilkhampton	4
	391
Bath, by Holdsworthy, Hatherleigh, Exeter, &c.	130
Total	521

ERRATA.

Page 70. l. 18. for *our*, read *his*.
97. l. 4. insert *more* useful.
114. l. 20. for *credit*, read *creditable*.
132. l. 7. for 50, read 150.
136. l. 13 for *county*, read *country*.
193. l. 20. for *form*, read *from*.
194. l. 10. for *course*, read *coarse*.
209. l. 20. for *noxious*, read *uxorious*.
218. l. 10. for *fadès*, read *fadè*.
247. l. 10. for *thow*, read *throw*.
Ib. Note, l. 2. for μαι, read και.
256. Note, l. 3. for τϐτϐς, read τϐς.
Ib. - - - - l. 4. for επελαβε, read απελαβε.
257. l. 1. for *vere*, read *was*.
Ib. Note, l. 1. for Ρομανοι, read Ρομαιοι.
Ib. - - - - l. 2. after επειδη, insert δε.
Ib. - - - - l. 4. for τοτε, read τοις ; for αθελησιν, read εθελησιν ; for Ϛαλατλαν, read Ϛαλατΐαν.
259. Note, l. 5. for κατεφεξεται read καταφεξεται.
261. - - - - l. 8. for φιλοτεχνας, read φιλοτεχνως.



LETTER I.

To WILLIAM JOHNSTON, Esq;

MY DEAR SIR, *Ashburton, July 25,* 1808.

THOUGH our correspondence has been interrupted for a considerable time, by a variety of circumstances, yet I trust you will allow me to renew it, with the same flattering readiness with which you originally assented to my request of commencing an epistolary intercourse between us.

Happily, the continuance of friendship does not depend on the regular interchange of letters; nor is it in the power of *distance** to weaken esteem, or obliterate regard. The *mind*, independent of time and place, can perpetuate its partialities through all vicissitudes; and *recollection*, faithful to her office, preserves within it the image of our friends, though years elapse without the enjoyment of personal intercourse, or oceans separate us from these objects of our preference.

These are sentiments, which I am sufficiently acquainted with you, to be assured you will concur in; I shall not therefore offer any apology for again using a privilege that has never been withdrawn from me, and from the renewed exercise of which I anticipate as much future pleasure, as I have experienced past satisfaction. Yet it must not be concealed, that however greatly my *inclination* may be gratified in once more addressing you through the medium of pen, ink, and paper, my *conscience* will be relieved at the same time in nearly a similar proportion; since I shall be performing a promise, which, though made some years since, has never yet been fulfilled, and paying a debt that has been equally

* The gentleman to whom these letters are addressed has been for some years a resident in a foreign country.

long undischarged, and is the more burthensome to me from its having been voluntarily contracted.

You will perceive that I allude to the Letters I had the pleasure of addressing to you in 1799;* in the first of which I undertook to conduct you to the Western extremity of our Isle, and introduce to your notice whatever particulars Cornwall might offer worth communicating to my friend. Circumstances, however, which I could neither foresee, nor have controlled, had they been anticipated, prevented me from executing the plan I had chalked out for *myself*, and fulfilling the engagement I had contracted with *you*. Necessity compelled me to return, as soon as I had reached the Eastern limits of the county I purposed to perambulate; and I came home, with my curiosity ungratified with respect to the most interesting feature of my projected tour, but with my experience enriched by another proof of the delusive nature of hope, and the uncertainty of all anticipated enjoyment.

You will smile at me, perhaps, that, whilst I am boasting of this addition to my *wisdom*, I should at the same time be neglecting its dictates, and again promising myself pleasures in *perspective*, the realizing of which a thousand accidents may again pre-

* Warner's Western Walk, 1 vol. octavo.

vent. But such, you know, is the nature of man: a sage in theory, he is a child in action; and like a child, forgets on the morrow the lesson he has been taught on the preceding day. Yet let him be content with his lot; for if the delights of Hope be too frequently succeeded by the anguish of disappointment, their present enjoyment is still exquisite, and their ends noble and important. They enlighten the dark, and they sweeten the bitter of human life; they rouze to exertion, and animate to perseverance; they conquer difficulties, with which the mind, unsupported by their magic influence, would be unable to contend; and they draw forth energies, that could only be awakened by their enlivening call:

> "Lo! startled by Hope's heavenly ray,
> "With speed unwonted Indolence upsprings,
> "And, heaving, lifts her leaden wings,
> "And sullen glides away."

The circumstances, indeed, under which I have commenced my second Tour into the West, are sufficiently propitious to justify every pleasing prospect. The weather is fine and settled; and in the ardent, cheerful, and benevolent W——, I have a companion, who, whilst he promises to direct my curiosity, and assist my enquiries, will enliven every incident

,hat may occur, and spread a sunshine over the excursion, which could never accompany a solitary journey.

Our course, for the first thirty miles, led us through a country with which you are already acquainted. In the ancient city of WELLS, we again contemplated, with mingled delight and wonder, the magnificent specimens of an architecture, which, though the production of a comparatively barbarous age, defies all the efforts of modern science to imitate: But whilst we confessed the extinction of a style of building which so happily combined the beautiful with the august, we are compelled to allow the palm of *taste* to our contemporaries, by the elegant, judicious, and appropriate improvements in the Episcopal Palace made by the present Diocesan.

The decaying ruins of GLASTONBURY naturally awakened all the melancholy associations connected with the view of fallen greatness; nor were our minds exhilarated, by observing, that the venerable old Market-Cross, which for centuries had adorned the town, was now removed, and had

- - - - - - - - " left its place
" A seat for emptiness."

We were detained for a short time by the blue *lias* quarries of STREET, which underlie the surface

of the flat country in its neighbourhood, to a considerable extent. The stone is deposited in beds from three to six inches in depth; and these *strata* are so uniform in thickness, as to afford materials for building, equal in regularity to brick, without any other process, than that of merely breaking them into masses small enough for the purpose. The *lias* takes a polish sufficiently fine to render it applicable to the uses which marble usually serves. It also produces many elegant specimens of the *Mytilus*, *Cornu Ammonis*, *Cochlea*, &c. enriched by those splendid pyritical crystallizations which are common to organized fossils of a similar *habitat*.

We found the inhabitants of the country around us deeply deploring the effects of a storm that had recently occurred; nor did their lamentations appear to be unfounded. They described the circumstances of this tempest (whose violence was almost unprecedented in the records of modern English meteorology) in terms which proved that its visitation had made a deep and awful impression on their minds. It occurred on Friday the 15th of July, and seemed to approach them from the East; when, having exercised its fury chiefly on their neighbourhood, it sailed slowly away in a Westerly direction, towards the mouth of the Bristol Channel. The thunder that attended it, unlike that customary

accompaniment of a tempest in the Temperate Zones, was not intermittent, but continuous; roaring uninterruptedly for upwards of three hours; whilst quickly-succeeding streams of lightning wrapped the atmosphere in a perpetual blaze. But the most tremendous circumstance connected with it was a shower of hail-stones, or rather of *masses of ice*, which rattled down for upwards of forty minutes. Irregular in shape, and unusual in magnitude, (for many of them measured nine inches in circumference,) these masses appeared to be fragments of a vast plate of ice, formed by sudden congelation in some very high and intensely cold region of the atmosphere, which, as it descended, had been broken into the smaller portions that covered the ground. During the whole of this terrifying scene, the progress of the tempest was opposed by a strong wind from the north-west, peculiarly hollow and mournful in its sound, affording no incomplete idea of what Ossian calls, "the voice of the Spirit of the Storm." Its course was marked by ruin and destruction. The labours of the husbandman fell an early and an easy prey to its violence. Promising harvests were in a short time totally destroyed: and we saw many corn-fields in which there was little more appearance of grain, than if they had just yielded their riches to the hand of the reaper. Those windows of

dwelling-houses which stood in the direction of its march, had scarcely a single pane unbroken; the glass of every hot-house was smashed to atoms; the smaller plants and shrubs were beaten to the ground; many trees were nearly stripped of their foliage; and the roads were strewed with the smaller branches of others. Nor was its havock confined to inanimate nature alone. Several cattle were killed or injured: two or three labourers were struck by the lightning; and no less than five hundred rooks were destroyed by the masses of ice, within the circumference of four miles round Piper's-Inn. In a word, it appeared to have been one of the most terrible storms that this country had ever experienced; and to have realized that sublime description of an elemental tumult, which our Bard of Nature, when he penned the picture, probably only intended as a creation of fancy:

" Down comes a deluge of sonorous hail,
" Or prone-descending rain. Wide-rent the clouds
" Pour a whole flood: and yet, its flame unquench'd,
" Th' unconquerable lightning struggles through,
" Ragged and fierce, or in red whirling balls,
" And fires the mountains, with redoubled rage.
" Black from the stroke, above, the smould'ring pine
" Stands a sad, shatter'd trunk; and, stretch'd below,

" A lifeless group, the blasted cattle lie:
" Here, the soft flocks, with that same harmless look
" They wore alive, and ruminating still
" In fancy's eye; and there the frowning bull,
" And ox half-rais'd. Struck on the castled cliff,
" The venerable tow'r, and spiry fane
" Resign their aged pride. The gloomy woods
" Start at the flash, and from their deep recess,
" Wide flaming out, their trembling inmates shake."—

At Piper's-Inn we quitted the road I had taken in my former tour, and pursued the new one, which was formed three or four years ago, for the purpose of saving six miles between this place and the town of Taunton. It runs in nearly a strait line for about fourteen miles, crossing the moors in its course, and joining the old turnpike at Warborne Lodge. Of this distance six miles are entirely new road, made over a low and flat country, which heretofore in the winter time had been generally covered with water. The road is raised above the level, and spread on a thick layer of faggots, so that it bids fair to be sufficiently durable. There is no doubt that much convenience is gained by this recent alteration. Time and expence are both saved; which is of course a sufficient recommendation to the private traveller to take it in preference to the old turnpike;

though, as it does not include Bridgewater in its course, the *public vehicles* still continue to run the former stages. With this conviction of its convenience on our minds, you will be surprised perhaps at the weakness of our judgment, or the singularity of our scepticism, when I say, that whilst we availed ourselves of the short cut which it afforded us to the place of our destination for the night, we could not help doubting whether or not the great improvements which had been made of late years in the English public roads, could be fairly considered as promotive of the *real* happiness of our country. Are they not, said we, the means by which luxury spreads her poison from large towns into the quiet retreats of rural simplicity? Have they not a tendency to injure the morals and pervert the manners of the country, by importing thither the vices and habits and fashions of corrupted cities? Do they not enable the idle and the dissipated to overwhelm the sequestered abodes of contented industry, and by exhibiting new and dazzling modes of life, to excite expensive emulation, or envious dissatisfaction? And are not the visits of the rich and extravagant ramblers, who by these means penetrate with ease into the most remote recesses of the island, invariably attended with a rise in the cost of every article of life, in the places to which they are

thus perpetually migrating? It is true, indeed, to all this may be answered, that the present convenience of travelling throughout England facilitates the *intercourse* of distant places; gives activity to the internal *trade* of the country; and above all, improves, promotes, and extends *civilization* through the land. Allowing thus much, however, I would still contend, we are yet without sufficient *proof* that the improvements in our public roads are promotive of the *real* happiness of our country. Frequent and intimate *intercourse* gives wings to corruption, and makes that licentiousness general, which, without its aid, would be only partial. Internal *trade*, beyond a certain limit, is the parent of luxury and profuse expense; of which the one only increases our wants, and the other, in endeavouring to satisfy them, plunges us into misery and ruin; and *civilization* is an ambiguous term, being either a good or an evil, a blessing or a curse, according to the degree to which it has arrived, or the measure which it has exceeded. Indeed, there is no question relating to the happiness of man in his aggregate character so difficult to be determined, as the exact point at which civilization should stop in order to produce the greatest possible degree of public felicity. To me, I confess, it appears, that all the writers on political œconomy are equally distant

from the truth in their reasonings on this subject. Without, however, attempting to settle the dispute between the disciples of Rousseau and the followers of Adam Smith, I would lay this axiom down as an incontrovertible one; that, in proportion as civilization is promotive of virtue, morality, and religion amongst a people, so far is it a source of public felicity; but, on the contrary, that it becomes subversive of real national happiness, in the exact ratio of its producing opposite effects to these on the general character of a country. Whether or not our admirable turnpike-roads are likely to have any influence in giving either, or which, of these colourings to the English moral character, I leave it to you to determine.

The gloom of these speculations was however in some degree dispersed, on our being informed, that in consequence of the new road, and an Act for Inclosure, a prodigious rise had taken place in the value of the land through which it runs. Six and twenty thousand acres had been rescued from the winter's floods, drained, cultivated, and raised in annual rent from 5s. to 45s. and three guineas per acre. Noble crops of corn were now waving over large districts of land which had formerly been the exclusive possession of the gander, his wife, and family; and large herds of black cattle were

grazing and fattening on rich inclosures that heretofore could only have been trodden by the light step of the adventurous snipe-shooter.

A short time before we reached Borough-Bridge, we were induced to quit the turnpike in order to examine a little stone structure to the left hand, which appeared to have been raised in commemoration of some remarkable person or event. We found it to be elegant in design, and neat in workmanship; and bearing the following inscription:

"KING ALFRED THE GREAT,

"In the year of our Lord 879, having been defeated by the "Danes, fled for refuge to the Forest of Athelney, where "he lay concealed from his enemies for the space of a "whole year. He soon after resigned the possession of "his throne, and in grateful remembrance of the pro-"tection he had received under the favour of Heaven, "erected a Monastery on this spot; and endowed it with "the land contained in the Isle of Athelney.

"To perpetuate the memory of so remarkable an incident "in the life of that illustrious prince, this edifice was "founded by John Slade, esq; of Mansol, the proprietor "of Athelney Farm, and lord of the manor of North-"Petherton, A. D. 1801."

It was not without considerable pleasure, and some little feeling of national vanity, that we recollected we were now on a spot, immortalized by the

greatest public character, perhaps, that adorns the page of history; and that this character was a countryman of our own. To this secluded spot, after a strenuous conflict of nine years with the Danes, who in tumultuous crowds had over-run and laid waste the Eastern part of his dominions, was Alfred under the necessity of retiring, with a few faithful adherents. Here he concealed himself for the space of a year, employing the period of his concealment in arranging those measures, and making those prepations, which enabled him to retaliate with a dreadful vengeance upon his enemies, and by their signal overthrow at Eddington, to reduce them to unconditional submission. It was here that he exhibited that exalted proof of his beneficence, when he supplied the wants of an hungry beggar, by giving him the only loaf in his possession, and left himself without a meal; and was rewarded for his humanity by an unhoped-for and almost miraculous supply of provision. And it was from hence he made his celebrated visit to the Danish camp, in the disguise of a harper, which gave him an opportunity of observing the carelesness and want of discipline of his enemies, and enabled him to attack them with that success which crowned the Battle of Eddington. When we consider the conduct of this great man under the strange reverses to which he was at different times

exposed, it is difficult to say whether he is most the object of admiration in prosperity or adversity. His moderation in the one, and his firmness in the other, were equally uncommon and exemplary. In short, viewed either as a legislator, a warrior, a scholar, a philosopher, or a Christian, I think we may venture to say, that the character of Alfred stands unrivalled in the history of the world; and every way deserves the splendid eulogies which have been accumulated upon it.

Would to Heaven, that encomium and desert were always as legitimately joined together, as in this instance! But it is melancholy to reflect how seldom this is the case; how few of what the world calls *great men*, can claim the applause of the wise, or the approbation of the good; how infrequently the character of the *true hero* appears; or how rarely the *conqueror* deserves the blessings of mankind! I may be fastidious, or perhaps forgetful; but at present none such occur to my recollection, save the august subject of the present page, and the illustrious deliverer of America:

"Thou, patriot conqueror! ——
"—— Who in the western world
"Thine own delivered country, for thyself
"Hadst planted an immortal grove, and there,
"Upon the glorious mount of liberty
"Reposing, sat'st beneath the palmy shade."

In pious gratitude to Heaven for the success that had been granted him, (as the inscription relates,) and with a natural predilection for the place which had afforded him refuge and protection, Alfred, after his restoration to empire, founded a Monastery at Althelney (or the Isle of Nobles) for Benedictine Monks; and dedicated it to St. Saviour, and St. Peter. It subsisted till the Reformation, when Robert Hamlyn the abbot, with nine monks, surrendered it, together with its possessions, which were then valued at 209*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* per annum.*

* William of Malmesbury gives the following account of the monastery, and the place on which it was constructed: "Athelney "is not an island of the sea; but is so inaccessible, on account of "bogs and the inundations of the lakes, that it cannot be got to "but in a boat. It has a very large wood of alders, which harbours "stags, wild-goats, and other beasts. The firm land, which is "only two acres in breadth, contains a little monastery, and dwel-"lings for monks. Its founder was King Alfred, who, being driven "over the country by the Danes, spent some time here in secure "privacy. Here in a dream St. Cuthbert appearing to him, and "giving him an assurance of his restoration, he vowed that he "would build a monastery to GOD. Accordingly he erected a "church, moderate indeed as to size, but as to method of construc-"tion singular and novel: for four piers, driven into the ground, "support the whole fabrick, four circular chancels being drawn "round it. The monks are few in number, and indigent; but they "are sufficiently compensated for their poverty by the tranquillity "of their lives, and their delight in solitude."

Close to the hamlet of Borough-Bridge, and near the conflux of the rivers Parret and Thone, a large mound or barrow to the left hand, which gives name to the neighbouring village, attracted our attention. From the regularity of its form, we immediately judged it to be at least partly artificial; and this idea of its origin was strongly confirmed, when we learnt that the materials of which it is composed, are not found within three miles of the spot which the barrow occupies. Its summit is crowned by an ancient chapel dedicated to St. Michael, who by the bye seems to have been complimented with these elevated situations, probably from his being the head or chief of the angelical hierarchies. Having fallen into ruins, it has of late years been repaired and modernized. From the loftiness of this mound, swelling boldly out of a wide level, and towering far above the adjoining country, it appeared to be peculiarly adapted to the use to which it was originally dedicated; for as the district around exhibited only a woody marsh, without roads cut through it to any particular spot, it was indispensable to place the house of worship in a conspicuous situation, that the inhabitants might the more easily find their way to this place of public meeting. The Barrow, however, does not appear to have been always the pacific scene of prayer and thanks-

giving. During the disturbances of the seventeenth century, it served far different purposes; and echoed the tumults of warfare, the shouts of triumph, and the cry of defeat. Goring having seized its summit, garrisoned it with 120 men, and made a gallant and successful resistance against the Parliamentary forces. Nor was it taken from the Royalists, till after the battle of Langport; when all hope of relief being extinguished, and a formidable body of forces being prepared to attack it, the governor was compelled to surrender the place he had so long and so nobly defended.

We now entered the most fertile part of the county of Somerset, the broad and luxuriant valley celebrated through the kingdom by the name of TAUNTON-DEAN;* a rich expanse of meads, pastures, and corn-fields,

- - - - - "Where Plenty, with disporting hand,
"Pours all the fruits of Amalthea's horn;
"Where Ceres with exuberance enrobes
"The pregnant bosom of the fields with gold."

Art, indeed, has lent her assistance to Nature in enriching this productive district, by making the river Thone, which waters it, navigable from Bridge-

* *i. e.* Taunton Valley, from the Saxon *Den.*

water to Taunton; a navigation that not only gives ardour to the industry of the country through which it passes, but confers upon Taunton itself the wealth, beauty, and respectability it enjoys. Indeed there are few towns in the West of England, which can vie with this in either of these particulars. Its woollen and silk manufactures have poured a full tide of opulence into it: elegant public buildings, substantial private dwellings, wide and uniform streets, and broad commodious pavements, give it an air of peculiar elegance and neatness; and the police of the place, at once vigilant and vigorous, confer upon it a weight of *character*, that cannot be boasted by many other towns. This last excellence of Taunton may, perhaps, be in part ascribed to the nature of its charter, which wisely precludes its corporation from possessing either lands, houses, or joint stock. Hence it is, that its municipality having no other means of ensuring respect, or maintaining influence, than their public *good character*, and the activity with which they perform the duties of their civil distinctions, are kept awake to the alert administration of those functions, which *they* are so apt to forget or neglect, who are "at ease in their possessions."

From the remains of the Castle, which stand at the West side of the town, it should seem that,

when originally erected by William Giffard, bishop of Winchester, in the reign of Henry I. it must have been a grand and spacious edifice. The Church also of St. Mary Magdalene, built in the thirteenth century, is a most beautiful example of the architecture of that age. Its tower, like most of these members of ecclesiastical edifices in West Somerset, claims the praise of extreme elegance, lightness, and grace.

Taunton, however, is not only attractive from its beauty, but venerable from its antiquity, and remarkable on account of its having been the scene of many memorable events.

It was here, that Ina, the West-Saxon Justinian, digested and promulgated a code of laws (if indeed they be genuine) as remarkable for their wisdom, as they are amiable for their temperance and mildness. It was here, that the woollen manufacture was first established in England, being introduced into the town by a party of Dutch, who settled there in the year 1336. It was here, that the unfortunate Monmouth established his head-quarters, and caused himself to be proclaimed king, when, in 1685, he made his generous but unsuccessful attempt in behalf of his oppressed countrymen, against the despotism and bigotry of his inglorious uncle. Hither he hurried with rapidity as soon as he had landed at

Lyme, expecting, from the zeal and number of the Protestant dissenters, who formed a great portion of its inhabitants, the most favourable reception. Nor were his expectations disappointed. "The inhabitants, of the upper as well as the lower classes, vied with each other in testifying their affection for his person, and their zeal for his cause. While the latter rent the air with applauses and acclamations, the former opened their houses to him and to his followers, and furnished his army with necessaries and supplies of every kind. His way was strewed with flowers: the windows were thronged with spectators, all anxious to participate in what the warm feelings of the moment made them deem a triumph: husbands pointed out to their wives, and mothers to their children, the brave and lovely Hero, who was destined to be the deliverer of his country. The beautiful lines which Dryden makes Achitophel, in his highest strain of flattery, apply to this unfortunate nobleman, were in this instance literally verified:

"Thee, Saviour, thee, the nation's vows confess,
"And never satisfied with seeing, bless.
"Swift unbespoken pomps thy steps proclaim,
"And stammering babes are taught to lisp thy name."

In the midst of these joyous scenes, twenty-six young maids, of the best families in the place, pre-

sented him, in the name of their townsmen, with colours wrought by them for the purpose, together with a bible; upon receiving which, he said, that he had taken the field, with a design to defend the truth contained in that book, and to seal it with his blood if there were occasion.*

Alas! my friend, how painful is it to pursue the history of Monmouth's progress; and after such a propitious commencement, to contemplate the sad reverses that immediately succeeded—the fatal battle of Sedgemoor, and the ruin of his army; the capture of the Duke, almost famished, and concealed in a ditch by a covering of fern and nettles; the degradation of his self-accusation, and appeal to the compassion of his merciless uncle; the cold cruelty of the detestable monarch; the Duke's condemnation to the scaffold; and the affecting circumstance of his execution, when, after three ineffectual strokes of the axe, the headsman, in a fit of horror, threw down the instrument of death, and could be induced only by threats to make a second attempt, which by two further blows effected the detestable act.

Nor were these sad vicissitudes confined to the fortunes of the Duke and his immediate followers.

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* See Mr. Fox's masterly Historical Fragment, entitled the History of the Reign of James II. page 229.

The town of Taunton, which had witnessed the triumph of the commencement of his career, partook also of the sorrows of its termination. Here the blood-thirsty Kirk exercised all that licentious cruelty which so generally marks the conduct of the *unprincipled* conqueror; and is, indeed, too often the spontaneous production of a profession, whose associations are necessarily more or less connected with murder, rapine, and devastation. One of his acts of indescribable villainy, which was exhibited at the White-Hart Inn in this place, Pomfret has selected for the foundation of his Poem of *Cruelty and Lust*, and thus perpetuated a tale of horror which one cannot help wishing had been expunged from the recollection of mankind. Judge Jefferies, who was Kirk's coadjutor on this occasion, handed down *his* name also to posterity, by equal acts of atrocity, loaded with an equal share of odium and infamy.* One instance of his inhumanity is too detestable to be lost in general accusation. Mr. Benjamin Hewling was a young gentleman of twenty-two years of age, and a captain of horse in the

* I almost feel vexed that the character of such an execrable villain as Jefferies, the tool of such an execrable Court as James the Second's, should have been handled in so tender a manner by Mr. Fox, in his History. (Vide p. 96.) But this is

forces of the Duke. Having been detached to Minehead for cannon, he was not present at the battle of Sedgmoor; but being taken by a party of the royal horse after the conflict, was brought to Tauuton, and condemned by Jefferies to immediate death. His sister, Miss Hannah Hewling, supplicated this fiend of the law, for mercy on her brother, or at least a suspension of the execution of the sentence, offering one hundred pounds for the respite of two days. In the thoughtless anguish of unspeakable grief, she presented herself before the carriage of the Judge, seized with one hand the reins of the horses, and caught with the other the wheel of his coach. "Drive over the pest," said the monster to the coachman; "and lash her hands till she have "quitted her hold!" She with difficulty saved herself from this threatened destruction; and could obtain nothing more by her dangerous efforts, than a reference to the pardon-monger of the day, who exacted the enormous sum of 1000l. for a permission that her brother's remains might be buried in St. Mary Magdalen's church at Taunton. Hewling

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one amongst some few instances in that book, in which this mild and gentle writer appears to have suffered the stern claims of justice to have been silenced by the small still voice of his own amiable disposition.

died with a firmness and composure that did honour to the noble cause for which he suffered; and exacted even from the mouth of an enemy this unqualified praise: "If you would learn to die, "think of Mr. Hewling."* But enough of horrors and tyrants, violated laws, and oppressed subjects.

The country from Taunton to Wellington preserves the same cheerful appearance of natural fertility, and productive cultivation, that had gladdened the eye for some miles past. Its plentifulness is indeed best established by the moderate price of all the articles of life here; for the whole Vale of Taunton may be considered as cheaper than any part of England, under similar circumstances of resort and population.

WELLINGTON claimed our notice from the neatness of its present appearance, and our respect from its having been formerly the property of *Asserius*, the favourite and biographer of the great Alfred, and one of the most antient, venerable, and authentic of our English historians.† Its church is a superb

* Western Rebellion, p. 1, 2.

† *Tantum se ejus fidei tribuere, quantum auctori antiquissimo, gravissimo, optimoque omnium.* Bale apud Vossium de Hist. Lat. 338.

Gothic pile, with an embattled tower; decorated with twelve pinnacles; and containing a fine monument to the memory of Sir John Popham, chief justice of the Court of King's-Bench in the conclusion of Elizabeth's reign. The effigies of himself and his lady are sculptured at length upon the tomb.

Quitting Somersetshire, about three miles from Wellington, we entered Devonshire at Blewet's-cross; and after a further progress of ten miles, reached the town of CULLUMPTON; remarkable for its handsome church, with the beautiful chapel it contains, built by John Lane, a wealthy clothier, in the fourteenth century; a structure one should have thought far beyond the means of an humble tradesman, had we not recollected that the woollen manufacture was first established in these parts, and confined to them for a long period, during which time immense fortunes were made by those who preserved the monopoly of this lucrative branch of trade. We were also much struck by a venerable house in the town, a well-preserved specimen of the architecture of the fifteenth century.

The magnificent scenery of Devonshire now opened upon us; sweeping hills and broad luxuriant vallies, backed to the north and west by the dark irregular summits of Exmoor. The picturesque effect, too, of the high banks which occasionally

bounded the road on either side, was not lost upon us; where the combination of the red highly-carbonated earth, and the green foliage spread over its face, produced a most agreeable harmony of colouring. The vivid vegetation of the low parts of Devonshire is indeed almost proverbial with artists; and the chief of English painters, Sir Joshua Reynolds, used to assert that the verdure in the neighbourhood of Exeter, Bath, and Bristol, was the richest in the kingdom.

In the happiest part of this scenery stands Killerton, the elegant mansion of Sir Thomas Acland, skreened to the north-east by a superb tract of wood, and commanding a view, if not extensive, at least beautifully diversified.

Evening had almost overtaken us before we gained the summit of Stoke hill, almost two miles from Exeter; but she had not as yet so completely drawn her "gradual dusky veil" over the scenery, as to rob us of the pleasure, or prevent the admiration, which it is so well calculated to afford and excite. Immediately before us lay the suburbs of EXETER, its venerable city, and majestic cathedral. The frowning heights of Exmoor closed the view to the north-west. To the left, the river Exe rolled tranquilly through its vallies to the sea, which formed the horizontal line in that quarter. The interme-

diate space was filled up with "hamlets, brown and "dim-discovered spires;" meads, corn-fields, and woods, "uncertain if beheld," and, in a word, all the other constituents of a grand picture, "stretched out immense," and infinitely diversified.

Has it ever been your fate, my friend, to enter a large inn at the close of day, when all its apartments were completely occupied, and every one of its attendants with more business upon his individual hands than three could well perform? If so, you will figure to yourself the situation of W—— and myself when we reached the L— Inn, hungry and jaded, and found ourselves in a house that made up seventy beds, and whose waiters were as thick as rabbits in a warren, but where no arts of persuasion, or airs of authority, could have procured the least attention to our pressing wants. But how efficacious are the virtues of patience and good-humour in remedying "the miseries of human life!" By having recourse to these, our inconveniencies began gradually to disappear; and we at length found ourselves in possession of all the accommodation we could have wished, and treated with all the hospitality, to say the least of it, that our humble appearance deserved.

As the term of our absence from home was limited, and our chief attention intended to be directed

to Cornwall, our stay in Exeter was not delayed beyond the time necessary to catch a glance at its many curiosities. We took a transient survey of the massive Saxon cathedral, and its numerous interesting monuments. We ascended to Rougemont, which having served the purpose of a Roman, and poſſibly anterior to that time, of a British post, was afterwards the residence of the West-Saxon monarchs; devolved then upon the Earls of Cornwall; and contains now the civil and criminal Courts for the county. We rambled through the gardens of Mr. Granger, by the Castle-gate, on the scite of the ditch, the striking beauties of which are formed from a combination of natural charms, the remains of antiquity, and the improvements of modern taste. Mr. Edward Upham, with a ready and kind politeness that increased the weight of the obligation, gratified us with a sight of the Roman *Penates*, or domestic gods, which were dug up on his premises; and this classical feast was still further heightened by the large and valuable collection of Keiserman's Drawings of Ancient Remains in Italy, which we were permitted to inspect by the obliging civility of its owner, Mr. Russell, jun.

The road to Chudleigh conducted us over Hall-Down, an elevated, dreary heath, but commanding a view of the utmost magnificence; a magnificence,

in the words of Johnson, like that ascribed to a Chinese plantation, the magnificence of vast extent and endless diversity. With all its attractions, however, we congratulated ourselves that we had to traverse its broad and exposed summit in the summer instead of the winter; when it is so beaten by the fury of the south-westerly gales, that the traveller is scarcely able to maintain his footing; or so covered by a sheet of snow, that he can only discover the proper road by the posts which are ranged along its side for his direction.

One of the chief characteristics of the scenery of Devonshire is the striking contrast perpetually recurring in it of hopeless barrenness to extreme fertility, of bare and craggy mountains to luxuriant wooded vallies. An example of this was before us when we descended from the region of storm and sterility just described, into the delightful Vale of Chudleigh. Here every thing is concentrated, that can delight the eye of the painter: rock, wood, water, meads, and fields waving with abundant harvests. It is a tract, indeed, to which may be applied with the utmost justice the terse description of the Lacedæmonian reign of Amycles, by Polybius, τοπος καλιδενδροτατος, και καλικαρποτατος, a place at once most beautifully wooded, and most exuberantly productive.

I had in my former series of Letters made you acquainted with the pleasing little town of CHUDLEIGH, seated in the bottom of this picturesque and quiet vale. The description, however, which I *then* gave you of it, will by no means apply to its present appearance. Since that time, an awful visitation has completely changed its character—a dreadful Fire, that consumed almost every house in the place. But it is now recovering from the calamity; and rising, like a phœnix from the flames, into superior beauty, and greater extent than before. As the devastation was almost general, (for upwards of 170 of the houses were destroyed by it,) so will its improvement be general also. The small, inconvenient, thatched dwellings, which fell before the conflagration, are replaced by larger, better planned, and nearly uniform stone houses, covered with a neat blue slate; which, though they render the town less a picturesque object than before, give it the pleasing appearance of greater wealth, and more extended comfort. It is gratifying to reflect, that Chudleigh has obtained this increase of beauty and respectability, without the loss of a single life, and with trifling injury to the property of its inhabitants; the circumstance of the fire happening in the day-time having prevented the one, and the liberal contributions of benevolent persons through the

kingdom having raised a sum nearly adequate to cover the other. The impression, however, made upon the minds of the inhabitants by the accident was deep and awful; nor is it yet mentioned by any of them without strong impressions of horror and dismay. The fire happened on the 22d of May, 1807, in consequence of a baker throwing the hot ashes of his oven near a heap of straw. This was quickly in a blaze; and communicated its flames to an adjoining house. A brisk wind, in an unfavourable direction, drove them on to neighbouring dwellings, and as the habitations were all covered with thatch, the whole town in a few hours was one heap of smoking ruins. The situation of the unfortunate people, in the mean time, may be better imagined than described. The lamentations of women, and the cries of children, the shrieks of horror, and the groans of despair, mingled with the roaring of the flames, the crash of falling houses, and the din of universal confusion, induced by the instantaneous visitation of a calamity, (which, under its least alarming circumstances, is peculiarly terrifying,) must have produced an effect, which the mind cannot contemplate without the deepest agitation; nor perhaps could fancy frame a picture more calculated to affect sensibility by the sad reverse that it exhibits, than the quiet inhabitants of this seques-

tered spot, hitherto the residence of peace, content, and joy, plunged in a moment as it were into agony, horror, and ruin. The sympathy excited in the public mind by the catastrophe was answerable to its distressful magnitude. A general subscription for the sufferers was opened throughout the kingdom, which in a few months amounted to upwards of 20,000*l.* This, together with insurances, amounting to 15,498*l.* and the value of the scites, 6745*l.* produced an aggregate that made up the losses of the 400 claimants, within 7500*l.* of the sum required. It is but justice to the philanthropic conductors of this subscription to add, that the distribution of it was conducted with the highest honour, justice, and feeling; and what is still more surprising, to the complete satisfaction of those who were the objects of it. You will be shocked to be told, there is every reason to suspect, that the author of this calamity was an *intentional* agent in producing it. Indeed he seems to have confirmed the general opinion of his sublime villainy by having immediately decamped from the place, and concealed himself so effectually, that no one at present knows where he is.

The romantic features of Chudleigh valley are, perhaps, viewed to the best effect for the first mile on the Ashburton road. The great marble

quarry is here caught, with its accompaniments of workmen and machinery, overhung by solemn shades; the little river of East Teign is seen rattling through the bottom over its stony bed, bestrid by an old bridge of three arches, finely festooned with ivy; a noble wood covers the declivity of a rapid hill that rises to the right, which is opposed on the left hand by another swell of equal beauty. The intermediate space is filled with cottage residences, built in a style of architecture appropriate to the scenery; and behind, the town of Chudleigh is partly seen through the wood, by which it is nearly embosomed.

Stover House, the seat of —— Templar, esq; recedes half a mile from the turnpike-road, on the left hand, nearly mid-way between Chudleigh and Ashburton. The mansion, the village church, and a few little cottages, scattered amongst the surrounding wood, produce a very agreeable combination of objects, which are further diversified by a good artificial sheet of water, spread in front of the house, apparently formed by the judicious management of a small stream that trickles from the distant hills, and winds through the moor in their bottom. It is to this broad flat, and the steep declivities beyond it, that Stover House is indebted for the view it enjoys; a view both singular and striking, stretching over a wide expanse of moor, meadow,

and wood, and terminated by the fantastic heights of Dartmoor Forest.

As we approached the environs of ASHBURTON, our curiosity was excited by several parties of decent looking men, whom we overtook, walking slowly towards the town. From their conversing in a language which we did not understand, we quickly discovered that they were foreigners; but to what nation they belonged, we were unable to determine. A peculiar manliness in their appearance, and a sedateness in their manner, convinced us they were not Frenchmen; whilst the animation of their countenances, and the ardour of their conversation, were totally unlike the gloom and reserve of the Spaniard. When we reached our quarters, one of our first enquiries was, who these strangers (many more of whom we saw in the town) might be? to which we received for answer, that they were *Danes*, who had been detained in England at the time of the Copenhagen Expedition, and sent as prisoners to Ashburton. The information was like an electrical ſhock to us; we bluſhed "rosy red" for our country; and W—, with the happiest readiness, quoted the pathetic apostrophe of the Psalmist:—"For it "is not an open enemy that hath done this dis- "honour, for then could I have borne it:

" Neither was it mine adversary that did mag-
" nify himself against me; for then peradventure
" I would have hidden myself from him:

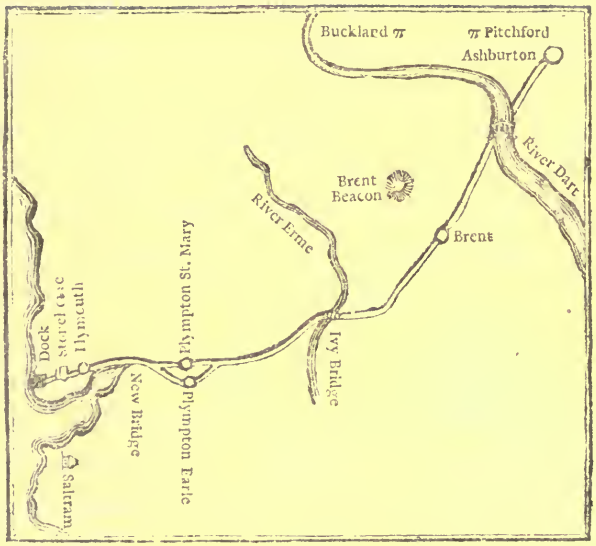
" But it was even thou, my companion, my guide,
" and mine own familiar friend."

I assented to the propriety of the present application of the passage, and added a wish that Heaven would avert from the transgressors the malediction which immediately followed his quotation.

I am, my dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

R. W.



LETTER II.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR SIR, *Plymouth-Dock, Aug.* 2.

WE had been recommended to the London Inn at Ashburton, kept by Mr. Lloyd, the intelligent *ciceroni* of the place; and had hoped under his guidance to have visited the many beautiful spots in the neighbourhood of the town. But, alas! we found his family sorrowing for the

loss of a tender husband, an affectionate father, and a sincere friend; seeking consolation, however, in their grief from the recollection that he had left behind him "the everlasting memorial" of a good name, and carried to his "dread abode" the fair testimony of an upright, beneficent, and useful life. Should the separation of connections be deemed so overwhelming an evil as it usually is, when such is the solace of those who are spared, and such the passport of the departed? No! let nature and affection have their tribute; but let not the claims of reason and religion be disregarded. To sorrow as those without hope, for the virtuous dead, is ungratefully to refuse the cup of comfort mingled by Heaven for the survivor, and selfishly to regret the certain felicity of "those who have died in the LORD."

Disappointed in our hope of finding a guide who would have conducted us to whatever was remarkable in the neighbourhood of Ashburton, we were left to our own researches, which, though less successful than they might have been under the direction of one who was better acquainted with the country than ourselves, were, notwithstanding, far from unproductive of entertainment to us. In the course of our ramble we visited the lead-mine, recently opened on the heights of Dartmoor, about two miles to the north of the town, where a

hundred men are employed in raising and dressing ore, worth, in its rough state, we were told, 30*l.* per ton. From hence we stretched across to the Dart, and viewed, though at a distance, Buckland in the Moor, the seat of —— Bastard, esq; and Spitchwick-park, one of the Devonshire residences of Lady Ashburton, situated on the edge of the Moor, at the distance of five miles from Ashburton. Both these elegant places are indebted to the scenery of the Dart for their most striking beauties. Here, indeed, this celebrated river begins to assume its characteristic charms, and to exhibit all its varieties of rock, wood, and precipices; the hills now receding in gentle acclivities from its tranquil surface; and now hemming in, and frowning over, its exasperated waters. Perhaps there are few residences in the kingdom (with the exception of Chatsworth) more marked by the agreeable effects of contrast, than the two just mentioned; commanding views of the richest diversity, in the immediate neighbourhood of dreary wastes.

The town of Ashburton affords little to engage attention. It is partly situated in a bottom, stretching up the sides of the hills to the east and west. Being one of the four Stannary towns for the tin mines of Devonshire, it seems to have been a place of some consequence in ancient times. Together

with Plympton, Tavistock, and Chagford, it sends its Jurats to the occasional meetings of the Mining Parliaments, held at Crockern Torr, a high hill in the center of Dartmoor, where the legislative business of the Devonshire tin mines is transacted. Formerly the concerns of this assembly were important, as well as numerous: but little, save the form of the meeting, now remains.

The circumstance of its modern history, which reflects the greatest credit upon Ashburton, is that of its being the birth-place of John Dunning Lord Ashburton; and well may it be proud of a production of such rare value, and extensive utility, of a man of such great natural powers, and unusual acquirements. The general knowledge of the late Lord Ashburton was as solid as diversified; and his acquaintance with every branch of human information that bore upon his profession, as clear as it was profound. To these endowments he added an eloquence ready, exuberant, and animated; which, though its full effect was a little obstructed by a trifling defect in manner, never failed to enchain the attention, to captivate the mind, and to convince the judgment. Perhaps one of the happiest compliments ever paid to a man for the possession of this enchanting faculty, was a reply of Dr. Johnson's, on a little recital of Mr. Boswell's, which respected

a conversation that had taken place between Lord Ashburton and himself: "I told him," says Boswell, "that I had talked of him to Mr. Dunning a few "days before, and had said, that in his company "we did not so much interchange conversation, as "listen to him; and that Dunning observed upon "this, 'one is always willing to listen to Dr. John-'son;' to which I answered, "that is a great deal "from you, sir." 'Yes, sir, (said Johnson,) a 'great deal indeed. *Here is a man willing to listen,* '*to whom the world is listening all the rest of the* '*year.*' It is a pleasing circumstance to the friends of Revelation to reflect, that the great mind of Lord Ashburton may be added to the preponderating class of superior intellect, which has acknowledged and asserted the divinity of our religion. He was a firm believer of Christianity, a belief, I doubt not, built upon cool conviction; since he has been heard often to declare, that if the evidences in favour of it could be made an abstract subject of judicial determination, they were such as would be altogether satisfactory and convincing to any Court of law, in which they might be sifted, and to every enlightened Jury to whom they might be proposed. As his Lordship cannot, I presume, be denied to have possessed the deepest and most accurate knowledge of the *nature* and *rules* of *evidence*, the argument in

favour of the authenticity of Revelation, drawn from his declaration, is as compleat, as such a species of argument can be. The church of Ashburton contains a handsome monument to the memory of this accomplished character.

About two miles from Ashburton we crossed the Dart, rolling its troubled waters through a romantic country in this point of its course. Precipices of shistus are seen peeping through the wood, which rises on all sides, contrasting their bare faces with the splendid verdure of diversified vegetation. It is a solemn scene, and would be a silent one also, were not its stillness interrupted by the thundering strokes of the heavy instruments with which the rocks are broken, to procure the good slate that they afford: the noise however, which is occasional, and re-echoed by the woods and precipices, produced a pleasing effect, rather than otherwise. The little church of BUCKFASTLEIGH, which crowns a rising ground on the western bank of the river, adds another agreeable accompaniment to the picture.

These romantic beauties are associated with all the Devonshire rivers. We again found them adorning the Hone, which runs through BRENT, eight miles to the west of Ashburton. Here we passed a lofty head of rock, called Brent Beacon, terminating the extensive district of Dartmoor to the south; a

tract too interesting to be quitted without more particular notice than I have hitherto bestowed upon it.

This vast range of wild country, so abundant in grand, uncommon, and grotesque scenery, occupies a space of twenty miles in length, by fourteen in breadth; affording pasture for upwards of twenty thousand sheep, and a great abundance of other cattle; and sheltering in its wilds a considerable quantity of red deer. Its surface, for the most part, is a thin black earth, swampy and spongy, through which the granite rocks occasionally shew themselves in a variety of fantastic forms. In many parts, into excellent manure. Like the Irish mosses, these beds of peat, which makes good fuel, and burns however, the soil is more valuable, from its rich deep beds will again vegetate in a few years, if they be judiciously cut. Independently of this product, it abounds also, in some parts, with rabbits, sufficiently numerous to supply the market of Exeter, and other towns, with this delicate article of food. Other riches, however, seem formerly to have been drawn from Dartmoor, as is evident from the numerous traces of ancient Tin-works found in every dip between the hills, both on its southern and western sides; a small remnant of which are worked to this day.

The Prince of Wales's royalty occupies the center of Dartmoor, surrounded by tracts, in the hands

of other possessors; but it is every year lessened by the allotments granted to speculators, who are induced to cultivate it under beneficial leases from his Royal Highness. Mr. Tyrwhitt, the Prince's agent, has himself set the example of cultivation, by inclosing a large tract of the Moor, reducing it into husbandry, planting a number of trees, and building a handsome house upon it for his own residence. The system pursued in this conversion of the waste is said to have been that of *compression*, by frequent rolling, the ground having been previously intersected by drains, into which the water exudes, and is afterwards carried off. Large quantities of sand are also spread upon the surface, for the purpose of consolidating the mass, over which, when it has been thus condensed, streams of water are conducted to nourish and irrigate it. The effect produced by the latter experiment has been answerable to the highest expectation; and remains a convincing proof, that what have been always considered as the most destructive waters to vegetation, (mineral ones excepted,) those flowing even from peat bogs, may be productive of the most beneficial consequences to land. Dartmoor was first made a forest by King John; whose successor determined its bounds by perambulation.

As we continued our course to Ivy-Bridge, we were struck with the appearance of the materials used on our road for its reparation, which lay in great heaps by the side of the turnpike. They consisted of beautiful varieties of granite, rounded by attrition, and apparently taken from the bottoms of the rivers in the neighbourhood, which bring these treasures from the mountains, whence they roll. A striking proof of the violence of the torrents of Dartmoor, when they are in their strength, that can rend such fragments from their primæval beds, and polish their rough surfaces by the force of their surge.

The London Inn at Ivy-Bridge is one of the most agreeable houses of public reception in the kingdom, from the circumstances of its situation; and can be exceeded by none in elegance and comfort. Its venerable host, Mr. Rivers, has now been nearly forty years in his present situation; and, though in possession of a princely and well-merited fortune, from steady industry, exemplary prudence, and unimpeachable integrity, still ministers to the convenience of his customers, with an attention, politeness, and, I may add, humility, as engaging as as they are uncommon. Let not Pride sneer at this tribute of praise to the keeper of an inn; moral worth is a fair subject of eulogy, wherever it may be

found: its claims, too, are heightened, if discovered under circumstances where it might least be expected.

As the features of this spot were known to *me* only by description, I was impatient to contemplate them in their original beauty. After a hasty refreshment, therefore, we borrowed the key of the walks from our landlord, who now rents the land through which they are carried, and proceeded to the western side of the river Erme, whose course they follow for upwards of two miles. The bridge we crossed in our way, (at the foot of which the London Inn is situated,) and the circumstance of its being richly cloathed with *ivy*, have given its present name to the Hamlet. It forms an object of considerable picturesque beauty, viewed from the eastern side of the river, where its lofty single arch, of wide span, springing from natural abutments, embrowned with the foliage of the classic plant, and stretching over a rude rocky bed, is seen to the greatest advantage.

However warmed my fancy might have been by previous descriptions of the beauties of the river at Ivy-Bridge, the actual scene would have realized its most romantic dreams. I confessed that I never had before seen so much variety crowded into so short a distance.

The first combination of objects that arrests the attention, occurs two or three hundred yards above

the bridge, where the path conducts to the side of the torrent, and throws a short reach of it before the eye, hemmed in on the opposite side by rock and wood. Immediately in front a sheet of water tumbles over the face of a steep bank, apparently a natural water-fall, though formed by a stream stolen from the river at some distance above, to serve the purposes of a paper-mill, which is seen a little behind the cascade, so broken by wood, as to give additional beauty to the sketch. This is a favourite subject with artists, and has afforded many good drawings, and some tolerable engravings.

Pursuing the walk, we were carried parallel to the river, through a coppice, for about half a mile; indulged occasionally with peeps at the rugged channel and rocky banks of the stream: always catching at these openings a lofty wood, which rising in amphitheatrical majesty, and following the curviture of the river, bounded the view before us. In the course of another mile, the scenery was changed. Our path now entered what might be called a grove, consisting of fine tall trees, into whose recesses the eye could penetrate, unobstructed by humbler coppice foliage, and catch the distant woodman at his labours. To the right lay the river in all its uncouth grandeur, darkened by the brown shade of a thickly wooded acclivity, that rose,

rapidly, and loftily, from its eastern bank. It was a solemn, silent scene, and recalled the romantic solitude described by Mason, and the purposes to which it might be applied :

- - - - - - - - " Here might Contemplation imp
" Her eagle plumes ! the Poet here might hold
" Sweet converse with the Muse ! The curious sage,
" Who comments on great Nature's ample tome,
" Might find that volume here. For here are caves,
" Where rise those gurgling rills, that sing the song
" Which contemplation loves. Here shadowy glades,
" Where, through the tremulous foliage darts the ray
" That gilds the Poet's day-dream !"—

The bed of the river is, at this point, truly chaotic. It appears to have been formed in a convulsion of nature; or rather, to have been left in its original state of rudeness, when other things were reduced to order and beauty. Huge masses of granite lie scattered over it in the wildest confusion, associated with more regular features of rock, the natural produce of the spot, which have been laid bare, by the violence of the torrent, when it assumes its wintry character of ungovernable rage, and irresistible violence. In truth, I know no place, where, in a little space, so many eligible and striking studies for the pencil, of rock scenery, are accumulated: I mean upon a narrow scale, and for near distances. The river, it is

true, was peculiarly favourable for such sketches, at the time we saw it, owing to the late very dry season, which had diminished its waters to a purling stream; a circumstance, it must be confessed, that deprived it of one of its grandest accompaniments, and might be supposed to have lessened the pleasure that a scene of this nature is calculated to afford. I am, however, inclined to be of a contrary opinion. The effect produced upon the imagination by a foaming torrent, roaring over its rugged bed, struggling through opposing rocks, whirling round in eddies, and darting down in cataracts, is in truth exceedingly impressive, and naturally awakens astonishment and awe: But it must be recollected, that the mind, under the action of these emotions, is in a painful state; the one being too intense, and the other too gloomy, for long entertainment: And whilst the scene is viewed only as one vast whole, the ideas excited by it are rather overwhelming than agreeable. Contemplated, on the other hand, in its peaceful summer dress, a picture of this kind calls up far different associations: wonder and terror are changed into admiration and delight: the mind, reposing in tranquillity, unruffled by tumultuous emotions, can now dwell upon its diversified features, and analyze its various beauties: it can separate and combine at leisure; and

add to the number of its real charms the touches of taste, or the creations of fancy. We quitted with regret a spot that had so agreeably regaled our imagination, and took the road that was to lead us to one of a very different character, the dirty town of PLYMOUTH, and the bustling streets of PLYMOUTH-DOCK.

It must be confessed, however, that the country around these towns is exceedingly rich both in natural charms, and in grand specimens of human art; and even before we caught sight of them, we found some scenes of great and diversified beauty. This was particularly the case from a high ground about five miles from Ivy-Bridge, where the eye ranged over a broad and magnificent valley, surrounded by hills of various forms, and including within its bosom the two Plymptons, numerous villages, with their steepled churches, elegant private mansions, and several grand masses of wood. Amongst these objects, the circular remains of the Keep of Plympton-Earle Castle, resting upon a huge artificial mound, were strikingly conspicuous. This ruin was a sufficient inducement to us to quit the turnpike, which passes through Plympton St. Mary, and take the rather circuitous road to Plymouth, through the more ancient town of PLYMPTON-EARLE. The effect, however, produced by a distant view was les-

sened by near inspection; we found but little to repay us for our deviation, in the remains of a Castle that had formerly given dignity and influence to the family of De Redvers, Earls of Devonshire. A curious circumstance in the architecture of the Keeps had long exercised the fancy of antiquaries; till they were relieved from the pain, or deprived of the pleasure, of conjecture, by the sagacity of Mr. King. It is an horizontal passage or hole, that ran within the masonry of the prodigiously thick walls which formed the Donjon of the fortress. He suggested that the Romans, and after them, the Britons, Saxons, and Normans, as they carried their ramparts upwards, relieved the pressure on the lower members of the edifices, and added strength to the whole, by turning arches in the work, and forming the rest of the wall upon them; examples of which judicious contrivance appear in the ramparts of Old Sarum, and Manchester, and in the Keep at Rochester.—But *cedant arma togæ*; let us turn from the contemplation of ancient hostile structures, to the more agreeable view of modern peaceful arts. Plympton-Earle does not derive so much glory from the castle of De Redvers, as from its being the birthplace of our English Raphael, the late Sir Joshua Reynolds; who was born here July 16th, 1723. Of this accomplished artist, it would be little to say,

that his fame will survive his *colours*; in the mixing of which, sacrificing future glory to present effect, he unfortunately adopted a mode that prevented them from being permanent; his reputation happily rests upon a less perishable foundation—his literary productions, which will remain as long as our language subsists, monuments of taste and eloquence, of his intimate acquaintance with the principles of art, and his accurate knowledge of the rules of composition. The occasion of his scriptural Christian name is rather curious. His father, Mr. Samuel Reynolds, master of the Grammar-School at Plympton, had conceived a notion, that it might, at some future period of life, be an advantage to a child to bear an *uncommon Christian name*; as it might recommend him to the attention and kindness of some person bearing the same name, who, if he should happen to have no natural object of his care, might be led, even by so slight a circumstance, to become his benefactor. Hence, the Knight derived the scriptural name of Joshua, which, though not very uncommon, occurs less frequently than many others. Of this baptismal distinction, however, the register of Plympton has deprived him, by substituting the name of Joseph for that of Joshua.

As we approached Plymouth, interesting objects crowded upon us. SALTRAM, the seat of Lord

Borringdon, crowned the hill in front; surrounded by a noble belt of wood, descending to the wide expanse of water called Catwater, and fringing the waves with its foliage. It is an elegant mansion, enlarged by the present owner's father, John Parker, esq; under the direction of Mr. Adam, the architect. Looking over an extensive lawn in front, and the sheet of water below, it compleats its view by resting on the beautiful grounds of Mount Edgecombe on the opposite shore. Saltram had the honour of entertaining the Royal Family, in the the year 1789, who made it the place of their residence during their stay in the West of England.

A lofty hill, variegated with wood and rock, reared itself in another direction; surmounted by a military structure, called Clarke's Battery, erected about four years ago; whilst the æstuary into which the river Plym disembogues itself, lay spread in wide extent to our left hand. By the side of this æstuary we continued our course for nearly two miles along a road lately opened, made at great expense, over a marsh, level with the water; and secured from its incursions by a strong embankment. It runs in a straight line, and saves a circuitous road, and an ugly hill; both which inconveniencies attended the old turnpike.

We agreed that the praise of Plymouth should be rather negative than positive, and modified when compared with Portmonth and other sea-ports, in some such manner as Jack Hatchway's celebrated eulogy on the flame of Commodore Trunnion was worded: "She is not a drunkard, like Nan Cas-"tick of Deptford; nor a nincompoop, like Peg "Simper of Woolwich; nor a brimstone, like Kate "Coddle of Chatham; nor a shrew, like Nell "Griffin on the Point." The most remarkable thing it contains at present is the stock of wine that fills the Abbey cellars, the property of Messrs. Welsford, Arthur, and Co. which amounts to 800 pipes in wood, and 300 in bottle, or 55,000 dozen; a larger quantity, perhaps, than is possessed by any other firm in Europe.

Owing to the rapid increase of buildings in these parts within these few years, Plymouth, though two miles distance from the Dock, is connected with it almost all the way by contiguous houses; STONE-HOUSE, the intermediate town, which in the time of Henry the Third was only a solitary dwelling, the residence of a person of that name, having now increased into a place of considerable extent. We were pleased to observe, on the outside of one of the houses in this town, and in a spot which appeared to be peculiarly dedicated to female pro-

fligacy, a large board, inscribed, " the Penitentiary, or Asylum for Penitent Prostitutes." It had been erected only a few months, but from the information which W— gave me, whose benevolence led him immediately to enquire into its state, and to become a contributor to its fund, it was gratifying to learn that its success had been as flattering as the recent date of its institution could authorize us to expect it might be. Surely, my friend, there are no objects to which philanthropy is more loudly called to direct its attention, than those unhappy sufferers for whom these establishments are opened; and no institutions more deserving encouragement and support, than the asylums which are erected to receive them. Nor can we help lamenting, that in a country so justly distinguished for humanity as our own, and in an age whose most striking virtue is that species of charity which ministers to the wants of the unhappy, the instances of these receptacles are so infrequent as we must confess them to be. Could we but look into the secret cells of these most pitiable victims of lawless passion, how many of them should we at this moment discover, " watering their couch with the tears" of contrition, and yearning to be rescued from the horrors of their situation; from the sad alternative of accumulating guilt upon themselves, or perishing with

hunger. But, ah! my friend, who is moved by their penitence and sorrow? or what do their sighs and wishes avail? To what quarter may they look for rescue? or whither can they fly for protection? *Man* glories in the havock he has made, and only aims to sink them lower in perdition;—and *woman*, the jealous guardian of that honour, which she is aware, alone ensures to her her place in society, reproaches and renounces them.—

- - - - " The watchful herd alarm'd,
" With selfish care, avoid a *sister*'s woe"

Thus abandoned and forlorn, the unhappy prostitute is *compelled* to continue her ruinous career, till disease at length drinks up her vitals, despair seizes on her soul, and she drops into an untimely grave, " with all her imperfections on her head ;" a melancholy monument of the brutality of one sex, and the cruelty of the other; an eternal reproach on that *society* which has spurned her from its bosom; and denied her the solace and protection to which Religion and Humanity have given her the most holy right. To the rescue and reformation of objects like these, so numerous and pitiable, how gladly (could my feeble voice be heard) would I direct the attention of the laws, the influence of the powerful, and the charity of the rich! How

earnestly would I recommend it to them to establish in every town within the realm sequestered sanctuaries, in whose peaceful bosoms *the penitent daughters of Folly* might escape the commission of further crime, work out their repentance for past guilt, and prepare themselves in future for acting a new, useful, and honourable part in society: sanctuaries, to which the sheep that was lost might be brought back; where the returning prodigal might be received; where the spark of re-kindling grace might be fostered; where the Magdalen might be aided in her contrition; and by whose protection, the last execrable triumph of the villainous seducer might be marred—the triumph of seeing his miserable victim *perish*.*

The town of Dock is an infant of yesterday, compared with Plymouth. A century back it was a desolate common, without houses or inhabitants: a singular contrast to its present appearance; that of a

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* It must be observed, to the credit of the city of Bath, that a charity of this nature has been established there for these three years past, and attended with the most beneficial effects. Truly gratified would the author of these pages be, if any of his readers, impressed by what he has said above, should hear the *call of compassion*, and be induced to aid, by their donations or subscriptions, so benevolent an institution as the Bath Penitentiary.

handsome, regular town, with a population of at least 25,000 souls. But though the origin of this place may be given to the commencement of the seventeenth century, yet its progress to the extent and respectability which it now exhibits, was at first but slow; its most rapid advances having been made within these forty years past, during which space of time such numerous buildings have been erected, both of a public and private nature, as to give it at least a four-fold increase both in houses and inhabitants. This rapid improvement must of course have produced a prodigious increase in the value of property on the spot, and in its neighbourhood; and we were assured that several portions of land had, in consequence of it, been raised, within the last thirty years, a thousand per cent. in their annual rents.*

* "The number of houses in Dock is about 2400. These "were wholly erected by the inhabitants, to whom the lords "of the manor granted leases for ninty-nine years, determi-"nable by the deaths of three lives, of the builders' nomina-"tion, and subject to a certain annual quit-rent, of probably "from three shillings to fourteen, according to the space of "ground occupied: with a heriot, double the quit-rent, on "the death of each life. The original leases were renew-"able on the dropping of a life, on paying a fine to the "lord of the manor, equal to about three years' value of

The growth of Plymouth-Dock town was indeed for a long time obstructed by the difficulty of supplying it with water; that of the place being unfit

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" the premises. In the year 1791, a plan of perpetual re-
" newal, at a certain fine, was presented to the inhabitants by
" Sir John St. Aubin; the basis of which was, that the tenant
" should constantly keep his premises full lived, by nomi-
" nating some fresh persons within a year of the dropping of
" any one of the then existing lives; and paying for this pri-
" vilege, a small addition of yearly conventionary rent, and a
" fine of about two years clear value of the premises. These
" terms, not being so favourable as those held out by Lord
" Mount Edgcumbe for building at Stonehouse, and R. P.
" Carew, esq; at Torpoint, on the Cornish side of the Tamar,
" met at first with many opponents: but latterly the inhabit-
" ants appeared sensible of the advantages attending them;
" and all the houses which by the dropping off of lives, on
" the original plan, came into the lord's hands, were leased
" accordingly. At present, however, Sir John declines grant-
" ing any more leases on these terms, or even on the old
" mode of holding for three lives: the houses which now fall
" into his hands, as well as the lands of the manor, are let
" at a yearly rent, for seven years only. The present annual
" income is considered as amounting to about 6000*l.* but
" whenever the whole of the lands and houses of the manor,
" not on perpetual renewal, shall revert to the proprietor,
" little doubt can be entertained, that the rental will increase
" to upwards of 80,000*l.* per annum."—*Polwhele's History of Devonshire*, vol. iii. p. 450.

for drinking, or culinary purposes. It is now, however, plentifully accommodated with this useful element, which is conveyed from a large reservoir at the north side of the town, into which the waters of the Dartmoor rivers have been led at a very great expense. Before this necessary improvement in the state of Dock town took place, it was occasionally exceedingly inconvenienced for want of it, particularly in the year 1762, when the celebrated Dr. Johnson happened to be at Plymouth, in an excursion which he took into the West of England during that year. The indefatigable Boswell, who tells every thing, good, bad, and indifferent, of his illustrious friend, has given us the following characteristical anecdote of Johnson on the occasion: "The "Doctor having observed," says he, "that in con- "sequence of the dock-yard, a new town had arisen "about two miles off, as a rival to the old; and "knowing from his sagacity, and just observation "of human nature, that it is certain if a man hate "at all, he will hate his next neighbour: he con- "cluded that this new and rising town could not "but excite the envy and jealousy of the old, in "which conjecture he was soon confirmed. He "therefore set himself resolutely on the side of "the old town, the *established* town in which his "lot was cast, considering it a kind of *duty to stand*

" *by it.* He accordingly entered warmly into its " interests; and upon every occasion talked of the " *Dockers*, as the inhabitants of the New Town were " called, as upstarts and aliens. Plymouth is very " plentifully supplied with water, by a river brought " into it at a great distance, which is so abundant " that it runs to waste in the town. The Dock, or " New Town being totally destitute of water, peti- " tioned Plymouth, that a small portion of the con- " duit might be permitted to go to them, and this " was now under consideration. Johnson, affect- " ing to entertain the passions of the place, was " violent in opposition; and half laughing at him- " self for his pretended zeal, where he had no " concern, exclaimed, ' No! no! I am against the " ' *Dockers*; I am a Plymouth man. Rogues! let " ' them die of thirst: they shall not have a drop.' "

It was the boast of an ancient monarch that he found his capital built of mud, and left it of marble. Such a declaration would be scarcely hyperbolical if applied to Plymouth Dock town; since most of the public edifices are constructed, and the very streets paved, with this elegant species of calcareous stone, which is found in abundance on the spot. In consequence of this, the effect produced on any of the pavements which lie on a descent, is said to be very beautiful after a smart shower of rain, when the

surface being washed clean, the veins of the marble appear in their original bright colours and diversified forms. The number of forts, batteries, lines, &c. built for the defence of the place, is so great as to require a considerable time to inspect, and would be tedious to describe ; I cannot omit to mention, however, the Telegraph, which stands on the parade at the north-east extremity of the town. For this useful instrument of rapid communication with distant places, we are indebted, you know, to the French, who first invented it : and as we wisely followed the maxim, *Fas est ab hoste doceri*, they are now pretty general on our own coasts. The swiftness with which intelligence is conveyed by this contrivance over a great space, may be imagined from the short time requisite for communicating news to London from this place, and receiving an answer in return. By means of thirty-one telegraphs any particulars from Plymouth-Dock are known at the Admiralty, a distance of 217 miles, in twenty-two minutes; and orders re-delivered at the Dock in the same space of time. Only seven minutes are required to convey any intelligence to Portsmouth.

But the object best deserving attention at this place is the Dock-Yard ; which is superior to any in the world perhaps, for compactness, elegance, convenience, the magnitude of its buildings, and the

beauty of its scenery. An admission is easily procured through the recommendation of any respectable person of the town to the Commissioner; though a very proper regulation prohibits the entrance of a person not employed in the dock-yard, into any of the buildings, without a specific order for that purpose from that officer. The whole of this space is private property, leased to Government for twenty-one years, and perpetually renewable every seven years; with a reservation to the Lord of the Manor of free ingress and egress at all times, as well as of all forfeitures in case of premature deaths. William the Third was the first of our kings who deemed the scite of this spot eligible for the purposes of a dock-yard, though but a small part of the present buildings and conveniences were in his reign constructed. From that time additions have been gradually made, as circumstances seemed to render them necessary; but the greatest part of the many useful and capacious structures which now adorn the dock-yard have had their origin in the present reign.

This noble depôt of naval and military stores occupies a space of about seventy acres, a great part of which has been excavated out of the rock, to render its surface level. But however expensive such an operation might be thought to have been, the charges were greatly lessened by the stone produced

by it having been applied to erect the necessary buildings. They are partly of shistus, and partly of marble, for both these materials were the natural productions of the spot; this neatness in their appearance, added to their judicious arrangement, the beautiful combination of wood and water, hill and rock, which surround the dock-yard, and the animation produced by 3500 workmen, render it if not a picturesque scene, at least as striking and agreeable a one as I ever saw.

The chief advantages of Plymouth Dock over that of Portsmouth consists in the superior dimensions of one of the docks, hewn out of the solid rock, and the largest in the world; and in its having *two* Rope-houses of 1200 feet long each, whereas Portsmouth has but one, and that of inferior length. The busy operation of this manufactory struck us with amazement, nor was our wonder lessened when we learnt that the people employed in it worked at present three days in one, a term of twelve hours of uninterrupted labour, and that such of them as attended the twisting of the cables, paced so frequently up and down the rope-house, as to make their diurnal journey twenty-five miles.

We *peeped* into the anchor forge, for all entrance, as I before mentioned, is denied, and beheld a scene only to be described in Virgil's words:

" Ac veluti lentis Cyclopes fulmina massis
" Cum properant: alii taurinis follibus auras
" Accipiunt redduntque; alii stridentia tingunt
" Æra lacu; gemit impositis incudibus Ætna;
" Illi inter se magnâ vi brachia tollunt
" In numerum; versantque tenaci forcipe ferrum."

But though we were forbidden a close inspection of all the operations of these sons of fire, we had an opportunity of seeing some of the effects of their labour, in a long range of anchors, which had been compleated at the forge, and were now ready for service; one of which, the largest ever made, weighed five tons within an hundred and a half. It was no little cause of elation to Britons to see at the same time several French anchors, that had been taken in prizes, and which (as we were told) were every way below our own; from the inferiority of the iron, and the unskilful manufacture of the *throat* of the anchor, or the curved part between the fluke and the body of it. Nor was this agreeable emotion lessened when we went on board the Caledonia, almost ready for launching,* a noble three-decker, built upon dimensions larger than those of any other ship in the navy. She is pierced for 132 guns; is from stem to stern 240 feet, measures 54 in breadth, and

* She has been since launched.

is upwards of six feet high between all her decks. The figure of an Highlander graces her head; a proper compliment to a nation,

" Inflexible in faith, invincible in arms;"

which forms, in my opinion, the most brilliant gem of our imperial diadem; a nation which blends in its character what *we* have yet to learn, the sincere religious principle, and an exemplary morality, with the most ardent courage, and the most determined resolution.

It had been particularly enjoined us to visit the *market* of Plymouth-Dock; an object which we found to be well worth our attention. Nothing can be more judicious than the plan on which it is constructed; consisting of two stories, both of which are defended from the weather by being covered over head. The quantities of provision of all descriptions exposed here for sale every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, are really astonishing; and it is a pleasant circumstance that this profusion is accompanied by very moderate prices, which is not generally the case with the best furnished markets in the kingdom. When we heard of sixpence-halfpenny per pound for meat, two shillings for a couple of ducks, and other poultry in proportion, it is not wonderful that with our heads full of Bath prices,

we should for a moment imagine ourselves transported into Canaan, "the glory of all lands;" where abundance was the character of the country, and plenty was proverbial. The excellence of the *fish* of Plymouth cannot be doubted, when it is recollected that the product of its market had sufficient attractions to overcome the *vis inertiæ* of Quin, and draw him from the metropolis, to the western extremity of Devonshire, that he might eat John Dories and Red Mullet in perfection. Indeed, there cannot be imagined a finer picture for the watery eye of a *piscine* epicure, than the department of the fishmongers in Plymouth-Dock market, whilst this article of food is in season.

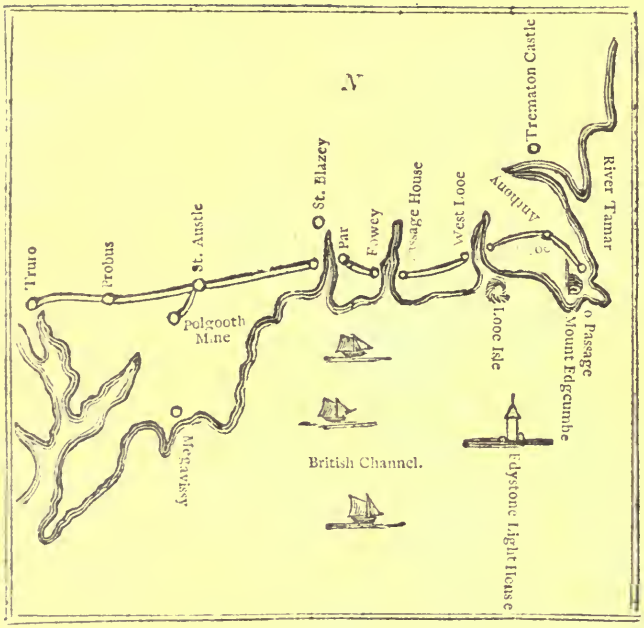
One word more on the subject of this place, and I release you. Acquainted as W— and myself were with the customary licentious habits of the lower orders and working class of people in most of our large sea-ports, it afforded us no small gratification to hear, and to observe, that the morals of the population of the Dock-yard were of an higher order than is usually the case in places of this description; an effect, attributed by our conductor, and I believe with truth, to the strenuous professional exertions of a particular class of the clergy in the neighbourhood. Without pretending to determine what may be the best mode of instructing the

multitude in their religious and moral duties, I think we may venture to assert, that where any one has been crowned by such compleat success as in the instance before us, we ought at least to consider the system with respect, and regard its instruments as sincere. Thus much *Christian charity* should compel us to allow, however our own speculative opinions may differ from those of the persons so laudably and usefully employed.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

R. W.



LETTER III.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR SIR, *Truro, August 7.*

YOU perceive we have reached the capital of Cornwall; but, however your curiosity may be excited by the mention of the Cornubian metropolis, or however impatient you may feel for a description of a place which concentrates in itself all the elegance of this distant county, you must be

content to wait till a subsequent letter for complete satisfaction on these points, and attend me in a long and weary journey through rough roads, and over barren hills, before you repose yourself amongst the comforts of this respectable town.

In making the customary excursion from Plymouth-Dock to Mount Edgcombe, it is usual to cross the water from Mutton Cove to Cremill, a passage rather more than a quarter of a mile; we however preferred a more circuitous course, that we might include Trematon Castle in our route, and were ferried over the Tamar from Morrice Town to Tor-Point, a distance of nearly half a mile. As the tolls of passengers are settled by Act of Parliament, there is no opportunity, if there were inclination, for imposition; though we confessed that the terms of one-penny for a foot passenger, and two-pence for our horse, seemed to be inadequate to the time and labour required in a conveyance of such a nature, and for such a distance. The proportion, however, between the pay and the service may perhaps be pretty equal, when we consider the multitude of passengers perpetually crossing here, who keep the boat fully employed for upwards of twelve hours out of the twenty-four. On our arrival at Little Anthony, we found it necessary to cross another short passage, in order to

effect our visit to Trematon Castle, and were ferried over Lynher Creek, which washes the foot of this noble ruin. We found these remains of baronial splendour as august upon a near approach as they were striking at a distance. They consist of a circular ivied embattled wall, including a base court of an acre of ground, and surrounded by a deep ditch. The entrance into this space is under a massive square tower, formerly secured by three portcullises. But the most majestic feature of the ruins is the dilapidated keep which rises from a vast artificial mound at the north-west corner of the area, an edifice that must anciently have awed that great extent of country which it now overlooks. Built originally to be impregnable, its wall was ten feet thick, and allowed entrance only by a strong arched door-way which fronts the west. The careful jealousy of its construction, appears from its having had no openings, even for windows; for the light of heaven was admitted only at the top: at least no windows appear in an elevation of thirty feet. Its figure is oval, extending in length upwards of seventy feet, and in breadth about fifty. The exact æra of its erection is unknown; but it appears to have been one of the residences of the ancient Cornish kings, and makes at present a part of the Dutchy of Cornwall.

The road from hence to MOUNT EDGECOMBE is enlivened by the perpetual recurrence of beautiful views and agreeable objects; for though we were now entered upon Cornwall, the rich scenery of Devonshire had not yet deserted us, and numerous villages on every side evinced that we were still in the region of trade, commerce, and population. But the recollection of all these inferior charms was lost when we approached the mansion of Lord Mount Edgecombe. This place has been celebrated indeed for its magnificence and beauty, ever since the period of its becoming the residence of a private family, which was in the middle of the sixteenth century, when Sir Richard Edgecombe, knight, chose it for the scite of his country mansion. Its natural charms, and the growth of its artificial plantations, excited the admiration of the Duke de Medina Sidonia, who proudly passed it in his Invincible Armada in the year 1588, and who would probably have executed his determination of making it his English residence, had not a few *trifling accidents* destroyed both his fleet and his anticipations together. One cannot indeed wonder at the Spaniard's partiality to the place, as there are few spots so calculated to strike the imagination, from the magnificence of its situation, and the beauty of its grounds. Of the house as it stood shortly after the period

just mentioned, we have the following account left to us by Carew, which affords a tolerably accurate idea of its present state, as the wing that has been added in modern times is so skreened as not to interfere with the *coup d'œil* of the original building. "The house is builded square, with a round turret "at each end, garreted at the top, and the hall "rising in the midst above the rest, which yields a "stately sound as you enter the same. In summer "the opened casements admit a refreshing coldness. "In winter the two closed doors exclude all offensive "coldness. The parlour and dining-room give you "a large and diversified prospect of the land and sea. "It is supplied by a never-failing spring of water. "Both sides of the narrow entrance are fenced with "block houses; and that next to Mount Edgecombe "was wont to be planted with ordnance, which, at "coming and parting, with their bass voices greeted "such guests as visited the house."

The most advantageous tour of the extensive grounds of this superb place, in which its interesting parts are taken in best succession, is pointed out in a little Guide, published at Plymouth-Dock, written with neatness and elegance. It divides the excursion very properly into two routes, embracing by this arrangement the whole routine of its multifarious scenes and diversified objects. Assisted by

this little manual, the traveller, after passing the Park-gate, takes the upper road, leading him through a piece of fine broken woodland scenery to the *White Seat*, as it is called, an eminence which commands a view combining all the objects that can be introduced into the most varied scene. A little further on a picture of a different character is presented, from *Redding Point*, in which the boundless ocean forms the prominent feature, with Cawsand Bay on the right, usually spotted with ships of war stationed in this ample sheet of water. The route will then lead him along the flat summit of the hill to the boundary on the western side, disclosing in its course occasional peeps at rivers, creeks, villages, and towns, till gradually declining into a beautiful valley, it agreeably contrasts the varied views commanded from the heights by the fewer, but more distinctly marked objects of a closer scene. The *Great Terrace* now receives the traveller, wrapping him in gloom, with the fine accompaniment of the ocean roaring at a great depth beneath him on his right hand; but his associations are quickly changed by a beautiful little valley, upon which he suddenly enters, called *Picklecombe*. Nothing can be conceived more singular and romantic than this natural hollow, which, from the uniformity of its appearance, seems as if it were intended to pass upon the

eye for an artificial excavation. A modern ruin, well executed, representing a dilapidated chapel, stands at the upper end, which takes in the whole of the valley, and carries the gaze through its opposite extremity to the sea, bounded only by the horizon. A *shrubbery* of unequalled beauty next occurs, formed entirely of every species of evergreen that will endure the vicissitudes of an English winter.

- - - - - - - - - " Not that fair field
" Of Enna, where Proserpin gath'ring flowers,
" Herself a fairer flower, by gloomy Dis
" Was gather'd, which cost Ceres all that pain
" To seek her thro' the world; nor that sweet grove
" Of Daphne by Orontes, and the inspir'd
" Castalian spring, might strive with this."

To its other charms it adds the prominent one of perpetual verdure, for as no deciduous plant has been admitted into it, and as it is protected from every blast that might injure or destroy its foliage, it literally smiles with an eternal spring. The closeness of this grove scenery gives additional effect to the view that bursts upon the eye at the stone seat, called *the Arch*, where it is thrown down a precipice washed by Plymouth Sound, that stretches into the ocean to the right. The *zig-zag walks* now conduct the traveller, by a new and interesting course, to *Pickiecombe* and the *Great Terrace*; and being for

a time plunged in the darkness of a solemn sylvan scene, he is suddenly brought to the dismantled Gothic window, called the *Ruin*, where another extensive picture is spread before him, heightened by a grand foreground of venerable wood. A road from hence leads directly to the house.

Much, however, still remains to be seen of the beauties of Mount Edgecombe, comprised in the *pleasure-grounds* that lie more contiguous to the mansion. To these the traveller is led by the *Home Terrace*, through the romantic depression, called *the Amphitheatre*, which introduces him to the English and French flower-gardens; so denominated from the different styles of horticulture which they exhibit. The quiet and sequestered character of the former is well described in a quotation from Cowper's Task, inscribed on a bench at the entrance of it:

" Prospects, however lovely, may be seen
" Till half their beauties fade; the wearied eye,
" Too well acquainted with their charms, slides off
" Fastidious, seeking less familiar scenes.
" Then snug enclosures in some shelter'd spot,
" Where frequent hedges intercept the eye,
" Delight us, happy to renounce awhile,
" Not senseless of its charms, what still we love,
" That such short absence may endear it more."

This beautiful retreat is adorned with a pavilion in the Doric style, containing two rooms and a bath, its marble basin supplied with hot and cold water, from two bronze dolphins, which pour the element from their mouths.

The French flower-garden is laid out more in the ornamental style of that fanciful nation,

> " Where vanity assumes her pert grimace,
> " And trims her robes of frieze with copper lace:
> " Where beggar pride defrauds her daily cheer,
> " To boast one splendid banquet once a year."

The copy, however, excels the original. All here is elegance and taste. An evergreen edge includes a small space laid out in a parterre; enlivened in its center by a fountain, and surrounded by trellis work, thrown into arches, and *berceaux*, festooned with every species of parasitical plant. The French character of the spot is further supported by an elegant octagon room, opening into conservatories on each side. Here too occurs a little trick in the Gallic taste. On the removal of a picture at the back of the apartment, a small antique statue of Meleager, exquisitely beautiful, is discovered, backed by a mirror which reflects all the objects within the garden. This little fairy scene was a favourite retreat of the late Countess of Mount Edgecombe,

who died in 1806. The recollection of her predilection, and of the improvements which her taste suggested and executed on the spot, is perpetuated by a piece of sculpture, consisting of an Urn supporting a Tablet. The latter is inscribed with the name *Sophia*. The pedestal of the urn has the following memorial:

To the Memory of
Her
whose taste embellished,
whose presence added charms to
these Retreats,
(Herself the brightest Ornament,)
This Urn is erected
In the Spot she loved.

The simplicity of the Doric alcove, called *Thomson's seat*, to which the steps are next directed, and the chequered and extensive view which it affords, form a singular change to the elaborate but minute beauties of the spot just described. A very appropriate inscription has been selected from the works of the Bard, to whom the fabric is dedicated, and inscribed upon its front:

- - - - - - - - - - - " On either hand
" Like a long wintry forest, groves of masts
" Shot up their spires; the bellying sheet between
" Possess'd the breezy void; the sooty hulk

" Steer'd sluggish on; the splendid barge along
" Row'd, regular, to harmony; around,
" The boat, light skimming, stretch'd its oary wings.
" While deep the various voice of fervent toil
" From bank to bank increas'd; whence ribb'd with oak,
" To bear the British thunder, black and bold,
" The roaring vessel rush'd into the main."

Another and a final variety meets the attention on retiring from Thomson's seat. All grand external scenery is again excluded; and a second beautiful specimen of exotic horticulture, called the *Italian garden*, or *Orangerie*, presents itself. It is encircled by a fine bank of evergreens; and divided into sections by gravel walks, which radiate from a basin of water in the center; out of which rises a beautiful marble fountain, formed by four of the female figures, called *Cariatides*, standing on a square pedestal, supporting a deep patera, from whence issues a very pleasing *jet d'eau*. The Italian garden is further characterized by long avenues of noble orange trees loaded with fruit, which in winter are secured in a green-house, of the Doric style, one hundred feet in length; and by a bust of *Ariosto*, whose pedestal bears a quotation from his works, with the following English translation:

" Near to the shore, from whence with soft ascent
" Rises the wooded hill, there is a place

" Where many an orange, cedar, myrtle, bay,
" And each sweet-scented shrub, perfume the air.
" The rose, the lily, crocus, serpolet,
" Such sweetness shed from the odoriferous ground,
" That every gale, soft breathing from the land,
" Wafts forth the balmy fragrance to the sea."

The circuit of the pleasure-grounds is closed with this beautiful little specimen of ornamental gardening.

From the faint idea which the above description affords of Mount Edgecombe, you will be prepared, I think, to acknowledge, that it is one of the first places of the kind in the possession of a British subject. It combines, indeed, all that can be imagined of the grand or picturesque. Nature seems to have lavished every effort in its favour; nor has art marred by any little tricks the effect of her munificence. Johnson, I recollect, preferred Slaines castle, the seat of Lord Errol, on the eastern coast of Scotland, to the magnificent residence of Lord Mount Edgecombe; because " at the latter," said he, " the sea is bounded by land on the other side, " and though there is the grandeur of a fleet, there " is also the impression of there being a dock-yard, " the circumstances of which are not agreeable."*

* Boswell's Account of a Tour to the Hebrides, p. 90.

But if *variety* be admitted as a *sine qua non* in a grand and beautiful view, we cannot sacrifice the *superlative* claims of Mount Edgecombe even to the authority of Johnson. No feature is wanting in the views from this place, and they are all upon a great scale; to which must be added the noble recesses of wood, both in the foregrounds, and some of the distances, which give a richness to every picture seen from it, of which no view from Slaines castle can afford an idea. Much of the timber, indeed, of Mount Edgecombe Park is of the most venerable character; and we were told, that a tree, blown down in a storm a few months before, had been sold, independently of the loppings, for 76*l.*

Our road led us to West-Anthony, a village which I could not approach without many painful and melancholy recollections. The beautiful view from its church-yard is, indeed, calculated to awaken nothing but agreeable associations; but the remembrance of a valued friend recently lost, for some years the incumbent of the church on whose sacred precincts I now stood, damped every joy that the gay picture around was so well calculated to inspire. Of him it might be truly said, in the words of Horace, *Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit*; and if I might be permitted to consider myself amongst that number, I would add, *nulli flebilior quam mihi.* In

truth, it was impossible to be long and intimately acquainted with a man whose superior endowments and rare acquirements were the least estimable features of his character, and not be greatly affected by his loss. As a *Divine*, whilst the sincerity of his piety, the virtues of his heart, and the earnestness of his manner, ensured him the veneration of his flock; the liberality of his sentiments conciliated the esteem of Christians of every denomination. As a *man*, the beneficence of his disposition is best testified by the gratitude of the innumerable objects for whose benefit it was perpetually exercised. As a *friend*, a *husband*, and a *father*, the warmth of his attachments, the cheerfulness of his manners, and the sterling worth of his domestic virtues, secured him that degree of tender affection, from all his connections, which can only be estimated by the deep grief that his unexpected loss occasioned to those who had the happiness of contemplating these excellencies of his private character.*

> *" His saltem accumulem donis, et fungar inani*
> *" Munere."*

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* The Rev. Joshua Jeans, D.D. minister of the Episcopal Church of Amsterdam, rector of Sheviock, in the county of Cornwall, and chaplain to the Duke of York. He died in Amsterdam, after a short illness, the 5th October 1807. An. Ætat. 50.

We had scarcely entered Cornwall, before our attention was agreeably interested by a practice connected with the agriculture of the people, which to us was entirely novel. The farmers judiciously employ the fine oxen of the county in ploughing, and other processes of husbandry, to which the strength of this useful animal can be applied; and whilst the hinds are thus driving these patient slaves along the furrows, they continually cheer them with conversation denoting approbation and pleasure. This encouragement is conveyed to them in a sort of chaunt, of very agreeable modulation, which, floating through the air from different distances, produces a striking effect both on the ear and the imagination. The notes are few and simple; and when delivered by a clear melodious voice, have something expressive of that tenderness and affection, which man naturally entertains for those companions of his labours, in a *pastoral state* of society; when, feeling more forcibly his dependance upon domesticated animals for support, he gladly reciprocates with them kindness and protection for comfort and subsistence. This wild melody was to me, I confess, peculiarly affecting. It seemed to draw more closely the link of friendship between man and the humbler tribes of his *fellow mortals*. It solaced my heart with the appearance of *humanity*, in a world of violence, and in

times of universal hostile rage: and it gladdened my fancy with an anticipation of those days of heavenly harmony, promised in the predictions of eternal truth; when man, freed at length from prejudice and passion, shall seek his happiness in cultivating the mild, the benevolent, and the merciful sensibilities of his nature; and when the animal world, catching the virtues of its Lord and Master, shall soften into gentleness and love; when "the wolf "shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall "lie down with the kid; and the calf, and the "young lion, and the fatling together; and a little "child shall lead them."

The agreeable associations excited by this interesting accompaniment of the labours of Cornish husbandry made some amends for the wild and unornamented appearance of the country that now presented itself to us. We had at length a specimen of the denuded scenery which we had been taught to expect through a journey of many days. We had bade adieu to all the features of the picturesque, and quitted the entertainments of taste for the gratification of dry curiosity. Nature, you know, is a wise and thrifty housewife; who, with a judicious impartiality, equalizes the advantages of every place; and with a strict justice denies her favours of one kind, when she has lavished her bounty in another way.

Such has been her system with respect to Cornwall. All her valuable gifts now lie concealed from the view. The nakedness of the surface, however, is amply recompensed by the subterranean riches of the county; for like a rough diamond, when her exterior is removed, a precious production is found beneath the crust. You must not therefore expect to be entertained with the agreeable succession of waving woods, and ornamented vallies, purling streams, or winding glens; all above ground is desolate and dreary; and the only varieties I can promise you to these naked tracts of country, will be dark mines, horrid rocks, or dangerous precipices. Of this last feature of Cornwall, we had a good specimen in our road to East-Looe; as it is in many places alarming, and in some not without jeopardy.

Quitting the turnpike (as it is called) to Liskeard, which runs to the right, we directed our course towards the coast, through a lane so exceedingly narrow, that in several places it would be impossible for a horse and carriage going different ways to pass each other. W— suggested that it would be a good plan to adopt the same custom here that is practised in passing through the excavated mountain of Pausilippo in the neighbourhood of Naples, where every carriage is provided or accompanied with a courier, who blows his horn perpetually during the subter-

rancous ride, to notify the pre-occupation of the road, and prevent the approach of another carriage in a strait where there is room neither for passing nor turning about. I have no idea indeed what adjustment could be adopted in some parts of the road to Looe, should such a rencontre unfortunately take place. This want of breadth in a public way, however, may be considered perhaps only in the light of an inconvenience; there is another circumstance in the character of the Looe road, which may well excite the terror of the traveller. About seven miles from Tor, it pointed directly to the cliff, and led us to an abrupt descent of some hundred feet in depth, inviting us down its precipitous face by a zig-zag track which seemed calculated only for the agile goats of the country, or the steady feet of an experienced mountaineer. We dismounted from our horses, and led them, not without sensations of dread, down a declivity, in some parts of which a a false step must have inevitably been fatal, accompanied by a hind of the country, who with fearless jocularity laughed at our alarm, and told us, he himself had trotted the whole way when it was as dark as pitch. He added, that he had more than once seen gigs descend this fearful road. We would not affect to doubt his information, but only begged

leave to observe that their drivers must have possessed a much larger portion of *nerve* than *prudence*.

We continued ascending and descending with this capricious track for about six miles, sometimes at the edge of precipices, and at others pent up between low hedges, till within half a mile of Looe, when by a sudden bend it introduced us to a point from whence a scene was suddenly exhibited equally singular and beautiful. Immediately under us, but at the same time at such a depth that it did not appear how we could reach it, lay the town of EAST-LOOE, its long bridge, river, and WEST-LOOE on the opposite bank. To the right, a fine tract of hilly country stretched away, well wooded and watered; and to the left, the solitary spotcalled LOOE ISLAND was discovered, with a long range of grand coast, washed by the waves of the British channel. The picture, it must be confessed, is no common one, but it was seen from such a *point of sight*, as chastened the pleasure it conveyed with some little mixture of awe; and we congratulated ourselves when we had once more safely reached a comfortable inn.

West-Looe is a small miserable town; and, despoiled of its trade by war, exhibits little else at present than poverty and discontent. In happier times an active pilchard fishery was carried on here; but this is now at a stand, and we were told, almost

with tears, that a three years stock was on hand, without the prospect of a single barrel being to be disposed of. It however boasts the honour of sending two members to the British Senate, and exists at present upon the languid anticipation of the transient riot that a dissolution of Parliament never fails to diffuse through it. As it was the first specimen we had seen of the *pure representation* of Cornwall, we regarded it with mingled feelings of indignation, pity, and contempt.

It had been our wish, when we were at Plymouth, to have visited the Edystone Light-house, about four leagues from that port, in a boat, which, during the summer season, has intercourse with it twice a week. But it had unfortunately sailed for its destination about half an hour before we reached the quay from which it goes. As we plainly saw this celebrated structure from the platform at Looe, and understood that we were now nearer to it than when at Plymouth, our wish to visit it revived, and we agreed with a sailor to be conveyed there on the ensuing day for the sum of one guinea. Fortune however was again unpropitious; the wind got to the south-west in the night, and we were informed any attempt to reach it would be unsuccessful; as it requires both that the wind should be *in*, or northerly, and blow lightly, to render a landing prac-

ticable. We would not allow ourselves long to regret a disappointment for which there was no remedy; though it would have afforded us much gratification to have surveyed such a monument of human skill and hardihood; a place of which the history is so remarkable, and the structure so astonishing.*

The horrors of Edystone had long been a subject of alarm to all the navigators of this part of the British channel: and innumerable accidents pointed out the necessity of taking some measures to remedy an evil, which, as commerce increased, became every day of greater magnitude. Accordingly, in the year 1696, Mr. Henry Winstanly, of Littlebury in Essex, a celebrated shipwright and mechanic, was employed to construct a light-house on this formidable rock. The work was compleated in 1700, and stood the furious assaults of the winds and waves, till the year 1703, when some material repairs being required, the architect visited the Edystone that he might superintend them himself. With a confidence in the stability of his work, and a resolution of mind

* We are indebted to Mr. Smeaton both for the erection of this edifice, and for an account of it as interesting as it is simple and elegant. Folio, London, 1791.

that deserved a better fate, he declared to his friends previously to his departure for Plymouth, in the month of November of the above-mentioned year, it was his wish that the most violent storm which ever blew should occur whilst he was at the light-house, that he might see what effect it produced on the structure. His wish was unhappily granted to him. A violent gale of wind came on, and in the morning, when the inhabitants of Plymouth looked out for the light-house, not a trace was to be seen; the whole of it having been overwhelmed, and swept away during the night. Three years after this melancholy catastrophe, a second light-house was begun under the direction of Mr. Rudyard, a silk-mercer on Ludgate-hill, assisted by Messrs. Smith and Northcott, shipwrights, of Woolwich. In July 1708, it was furnished with a light; and the whole of it compleated in the succeeding year. For forty-six years Rudyard's edifice answered all the purposes of its erection; but by some carelessness in the persons employed, it took fire, in December 1755, and was entirely consumed. To this conflagration we owe one of the most extraordinary anecdotes recorded in the physical history of man. Three persons had been appointed to take care of the building, and were on the spot when the accident happened. Whilst one of these was looking

up to the flames which raged above, and *gaping* with horror at the sight, a quantity of melted lead, exceeding seven ounces in weight, poured down his throat! Wonderful to relate, the man perceived but a trifling inconvenience at the time, and actually survived the infernal dose eleven days. His body was then opened by Mr. Spry, of Plymouth, who found the mass in the stomach of the patient. He authenticated the circumstance in a well-written account, communicated to the Royal Society.* Notwithstanding the disastrous fate of the two first light-houses, in the succeeding year, 1756, the proprietors of the Edystone employed the ingenious Mr. Smeaton in the construction of a third. He commenced his work on the foundation the 5th of August. On the 12th of June in the ensuing year, the first stone of the structure was laid; and on the 9th of October 1759, it "stood fixed its stately height;" the proudest monument which the world exhibits of man's triumph over the fury of the blast and the violence of the ocean. The accomplishment of this great undertaking, and the genius that suggested it, will appear the more extraordinary, when it is recollected that, owing to frequent interruptions from the tide and the winds, the workmen were not employed

* Philosophical Transactions, vol. 49. p. 477.

more than a hundred and eleven days and ten hours, from striking the first stroke to finishing the building. Nothing less than a convulsion that shall displace the Edystone itself, will be able to destroy the light-house upon it; since it is dove-tailed into the rock, and thus identified with the mass that supports it.

It would be cruel, in the present depressed state of East-Looe, to withhold any claim that it asserts to celebrity. Let me not forget therefore to mention that it boasts one of the finest breed of Terriers in the kingdom, which afford much amusement to the inhabitants in hunting the badgers that abound in the creeks. The eye of our host sparkled when he recounted to us the joys of this species of chase, the hair-breadth 'scapes he had experienced in the pursuit, the wiliness of the game, and the ardour and intrepidity of the dogs that followed it.

We crossed Looe river by a long and ancient bridge of fifteen arches; stopping for a minute to contemplate its views of much animation and beauty. The sea, the shipping, the two opposite towns, abrupt rocks, dark chasms, and little sequestered pools, or recesses of water, form a very agreeable picture to the south. Up the river the eye ranges over a scene of equal interest, though of different character. Looe river and the Dulo creek, which

unite above the bridge, are seen leading their waters from the right and left through hollow vallies flanked by bold swells of ground, which, well wooded on their sides, claim the praise of beauty as well as of grandeur. Trenant Park, late the seat of Sir John Morshead, bart. but now of —— Buller, esq; has a happy situation on this promontory of separation, embracing all the objects between itself and the ocean.

At Looe we again lost sight for many miles of the picturesque, picking our way through an intricate road of fifteen miles, in a country which would be superlatively tedious, did it not afford occasional views of the ocean, an object that always interests and enlivens. Another ferry over the mouth of the river, from whence the town has its name, took us to FOWEY, from the opposite village of POLRUAN, and gave us again some magnificent features of rock scenery. These vast natural masses of shistus rise with great dignity at the mouth of the harbour, surmounted with forts for its defence. That of St. Catherine is supplied with ordnance, which, from their commanding situation, appear to be capable of preventing the entrance of any hostile ship that might make an attempt upon the town.

Complaints of the decay of commerce from the continuance of the war, and the shutting up of the

Mediterranean ports, were as loud and general here as at Looe. The stock of pilchards, the staple commodity of the place, the fruit of the toil of several seasons, was decaying on the hands of the inhabitants. Trade had stagnated, and industry had lost its stimulus; for what inducement can there be to labour, when all its effects issue only in disappointment and loss? Ah! my friend, when will that happy period arrive, that shall behold the rulers of the world (anxious for the *happiness* of society) once more resting from the senseless struggles of ambition, and giving some pause to the misery of mankind? When, considering *their own* proper *glory* as identified with the *prosperity* of their *subjects*, they shall bid the sword of *war* rest in its scabbard and be still? When the nations of the civilized world, hushed by their fiat into *peace*, shall again exhibit that picture of plenty and tranquillity to which Christendom has so long been a stranger? When "their garners "shall be full and plenteous with all manner of "stores; when their oxen shall be strong to labour; "when there shall be no decay, no leading into "captivity, and no complaining in their streets?"

We found another ferry at PAR, after a pleasant ride for some distance over the sands; as these are only passable at ebb, owing to a jutting low promontory, which is washed by the sea near the time

of flood, it is necessary to be previously acquainted with the state of the tide, and in case of its being near high water, to take a circuitous route, and cross the river at St. Blazey bridge.

The road now diverged from the cliff, and soon brought us into the neighbourhod of ST. AUSTLE'S, a country decorated with several gentlemen's seats, some respectable woods, and highly ornamented grounds. The town itself is narrow, but neat; and the church, particularly its tower, a beautiful example of Gothic architecture.*

If we might be allowed to estimate the *religion* of Cornwall in former times, by the general patronage which the *Saints* seem to have possessed in it, we

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* Three miles short of St. Austle's, a little to the left, is Menabilly, the seat of Philip Rashleigh, esq; M. P. for Fowey; a gentleman on whom I had determined to call, being well assured, that from his well-known urbanity and hospitality, I should have met with a cordial reception, and a ready gratification of that curiosity which had been excited by his splendid publication on the subject of County Mineralogy. Unfortunately, from directions not well understood, I overshot his house; and was prevented from participating with W— (from whom I had been accidentally separated) the pleasure of inspecting a Cabinet of Minerals, the product of forty years purchase and collection; containing specimens numerous though select, rare, costly, and superb.

should be disposed to rate it very highly, as there is scarcely a village which does not boast such holy tutelage. These consecrated gentlemen, and members of parliament, are indeed, equally numerous through the county. They go hand in hand together; conferring and receiving mutual honour and respectability. W— marvelled at the heterogeneous combination ; we both however, rejoiced at finding a portion of our senators in such *good company*, and traced many of the *excellencies* of St. Stephen to the passive virtues of his brother saints in this distant county.

As we entered into St. Austle's, we were met by several carts loaded with barrels, containing a white earthly substance ; which, on enquiry, we understood to be the *porcelain earth* from St. Stephen's parish, (a district at a little distant to the north-west of St. Austle's,) used in the china manufactories of Staffordshire and other places, and going for exportation to a little town built by Mr. Rashleigh of Menabilly, called Charlestown, on the neighbouring coast. This article is a decomposed felspar, produced in the vallies under the granite hills about St. Stephen's, the mica of which is quite white. The clay arising from this decomposition occurs about six feet under the surface, and continues to the depth of three fathoms on an average. The

method practised for its purification, is casting it into a pit under a fall of water about four feet high. Here it is dissolved; the masses of granite which are not decomposed falling to the bottom, whilst the lighter and useful particles are carried by the stream into two other pits, of different levels, connected with the first, and following each other. When the water in this last reservoir is pure and transparent on the surface, it is drained off, and the sediment at the bottom is the article of trade. The residuum of the first pit is of no value; but that of the second is preserved for use, though of inferior value to the deposit in the last. When dried in the pits to the consistency of clay fit for moulding into bricks, it is taken out, put into casks of about 500 cwt. each, and shipped for Staffordshire and Wales. The works of Messrs. Spode and Wolf in Staffordshire consume the greatest part of this product. They hold the principal work under a rent to the lord of about 900*l.* per annum. It is estimated, that on an average of seven years, nearly 1200 tons of this clay are annually shipped from Cornwall. It consists of about two-thirds of silex and one of argil. The profits of St. Stephen's works, however, are not confined to the pulverized clay: a considerable portion of them arises from the exportation of white granite in lumps, which is sent to the same porcelain manufactories to

be ground for use: it is said to make a beautiful enamel.

As we were now within two miles of one of the largest and most ancient of the Cornish Tin-Mines, called Polgooth, we promised ourselves much pleasure in the survey of an object which would be new to us both. When we reached the spot, however, we were mortified to find that its working had been discontinued for two years past. Long protracted war, like death "*with his mace petrific*," had stopped its processes; and silence and solitude were spread over the spot, which had for centuries been enlivened by the bustle of business, and the noise of labour. Though the product of the works had amounted from 15,000*l.* to 18,000*l.* per annum, yet such was the deadness of the market, that the proprietors had deemed it prudent for a time to shut them up. It is, however, fortunately in my power to gratify you with an account of this extensive mine, as it appeared a few years back, in brighter days, written by a gentleman who has the happy faculty of combining elegant description with scientific accuracy, of making the minute interesting, and throwing a charm over the driest subject.*

* See Dr. Maton's Observations on the Western Counties of England, vol. i. p. 155. Salisbury, 1797. In addition to

" Polgooth, one of the richest and largest tin-mines
" in the county, if not in the world, is situated
" about two miles south-west from St. Austle. The

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the other valuable information to be found in Dr. Maton's remarks on Cornwall, it should not be omitted to be mentioned, that they contain descriptions of many of its rare and peculiar plants. On our return home we found that we had missed another object of curiosity in the neighbourhood, the *Stream-Tin* works of St. Austle Moor, called *Peth-Stream* works. The spot where these occur is a narrow valley about a furlong wide, (in some places somewhat wider,) running near three miles from the town of St. Austle southward to the sea. On each side, and at the head above St. Austle, are many hills, betwixt which there are little vallies which all discharge their waters, and whatever else they receive from the higher grounds, into St. Austle's Moor; whence it happens that the ground of this moor is all adventitious for about three fathoms deep, the shodes and streams from the hills on each side, being here collected and ranged into floors according to their weight, and the successive dates of their coming thither. The uppermost coat consists of three layers of earth, clay, and pebbly gravel, about five feet deep; the next stratum is about six feet deep, more strong, the stones pebbly-formed, with a gravely sand intermixed; these two coverings being removed, they find great numbers of tin-stones from the bigness of a goose egg, and sometimes larger, down to the size of the finest sand. The *tin* is inserted in a stratum of loose smoothened stones, from a foot diameter downwards to the smallest pebble. From the present surface of the rock, down to the solid rock or karn, is eighteen feet deep

" surrounding country is for many miles bleak, bar-
" ren, and tedious to the eye. I ought not indeed
" to call it *barren*, for its bowels contain riches,

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at a medium: in the solid rock there is no tin. This stream-tin is of the purest kind, and great part of it, without any other management than being washed upon the spot, brings thirteen parts for twenty at the melting-house; that is, upon delivering twenty pounds of this tin-ore at the melting-house, the melter will contract to deliver to the owner's order thirteen pounds of melted tin at the coinage. *Borlase's Natural History of Cornwall, p.* 163.——In Mr. Borlase's time, two blocks of melted tin were found in these works, weighing twenty-eight pounds each, of a different shape to the modern Cornish blocks of tin: without stamp, but having a semicircular handle to each. They were supposed to be of the reign of King John, when the Jews monopolized the tin trade of Cornwall; and to have been the production of one of their smelting-houses, near this place, accidentally washed into the valley, and covered with later depositions. Dr. Maton has the following valuable observations on these stream-works:—" The sand at Par" (to which they extend) " is in some places seventy feet deep, and large blocks of " granite lie buried in it. It appears to me that both about " Poth and Par the soil has been formed partly by deposit " from the sea, and partly by mould and fragments washed " by streams from the surrounding mountains. The shells " which abound in the stream-works at all depths are proofs " of the former, and numerous rivulets may be traced from " the granite ridges about Luxulian and Lanlivery to the

" though like the shabby mien of the miser, its
" aspect does not correspond with the hoards.
" There are no less than fifty shafts in Polgooth;

" margin of the bay where they empty themselves. These
" have washed down pieces of ore from its beds, and perhaps
" remnants of old workings, and the sea has afterwards
" covered them with mud and sand, which are now carried
" off by brisk streams of water conducted over the ground,
" in little channels, so as to leave the pebbles at the bottom;
" hence the name of stream-works, which most probably were
" the earliest method discovered by our ancestors for pro-
" curing the ore of tin. After being pounded by a machine
" made for the purpose, (and turned by water,) and again
" washed in order to be cleansed as much as possible from
" earthly particles, the ore is sent to the smelting-house to
" be made into malleable metal. So valuable is the supply
" of water used in some of the stream-works, that when
" turned from grist-mill tenants, it has been let for 50*l.* per
" month, for several years following.—At Poth the famous
" *wood-tin*, as it is called, (from the appearance of wood which
" some of the pebbles exhibit) has been found abundantly,
" but it is now scarce. It has nearly the colour of *hæma-*
" *tites*, (and indeed contains some iron,) with fine streaks or
" *striæ* converging to the different centres, like the radiated
" zeolite. It is hard enough to give sparks with steel, and
" when broken still shews a fibrous appearance. Professor
" Brunnich, of Copenhagen, says that it gives thirty-four
" parts of tin in an hundred. Klaproth found that it yielded
" more than sixty-three."—*Maton's Obs. vol.* i. *p.* 153, 154.

" twenty-six are still in use, with as many horizontal " wheels, or whims. The main vein of ore, which " is about six feet thick, runs from east to west, " and dips to the north at the rate of about six feet " in a fathom.. Towards the east it divides into " two branches, and there is another that cuts the " former nearly at a right angle, and consequently " runs north and south, dipping to the east. The " exact extent of this mine has not been ascertained, " but we are informed that it has afforded tin the " full length of a mile. The depth of the engine- " shaft is about one hundred and ten fathoms, and " this machine draws up, at each stroke, a column " of water thirty feet in height and fifteen inches in " diameter. There is also an excellent overshot " water-engine with a wheel 36 feet in diameter. " The ore is disseminated in general through a " *matrix* of *caple*, accompanied with yellow cupre- " ous pyrites, and sometimes ferrugineous ochre. " It is of the vitreous kind, but rarely found in " crystals; the colour for the most part greyish " brown. The *country* of the ore is chiefly a greyish " killas, but we observed large heaps of what the " miners call *elvan-stone* about the shafts. This " substance, they told us, formed a cross course, " and drove the vein of tin several feet out of the " direct line. Polgooth is said to have yielded a

" clear profit of 1500*l.* per month, and Borlase " mentions that in his time the proprietors gained " 20,000*l.* annually, several years following. Up- " wards of 17,000*l.* were expended, however, before " the mine yielded one shilling."

The tower of St. Mewan's church, peeping from a clump of trees, was a pleasing object to the eye that had not rested on any of Nature's loveliness for many miles; and we were reminded, as we proceeded, that new habits of rural life were opening upon us, by the little flocks of goats and kids which skipped about in the neighbourhood of the road, affording milk for the dairy, and food for the peasant. The tower of Probus church too could not be passed without attention: it called forth the reflection, that if its magnificence do not prove the genuine piety of our ancestors, it at least evinces they spared no cost or labour in the construction and decoration of edifices set apart for the worship of their Maker.

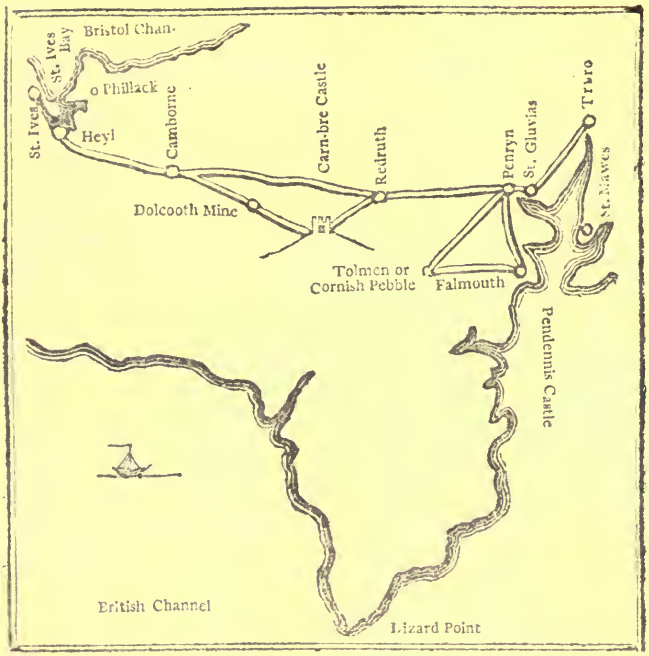
At TRESILIAN, about eleven miles from St. Austle, we again encountered an element from which we had reluctantly been separated. St. Clement's creek, a branch of Falmouth harbour, flows up to the village, and forms, with its accompaniments, a striking contrast to the general character of Cornwall, as far as we had yet seen of it. A short dis-

tance from hence, the more approved appearance of the country, a more careful cultivation, and a few gentlemen's mansions, *rari nantes in gurgite vasto*, intimated that we approached the town of Truro, which soon appeared, and afforded us the repose of which we stood so much in need.

I am, my dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

R. W.



LETTER IV.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR SIR, *St. Ives, August* 12.

NOTHING surely can be more hostile to the beauties of Nature than the processes of *mining*. Its first step is to level the little wood (if indeed there be any) with which she may have garnished the spots where she has concealed her ores. It then penetrates into the earth, and covers the

neighbouring soil with unproductive rubbish. It proceeds to poison the brooks around with its mineral impregnations; spreads far and wide the sulphureous smoke of its smelting-houses; blasting vegetation with their deleterious vapours, and obscuring the atmosphere with the infernal fumes of arsenic and sulphur.

Such were our reflections when we touched upon the mining country in our way to PENRHYN. It appeared to us like a district filled with extinguished volcanoes, which, having exhausted their fury, could now only be traced in the universal desolation they had occasioned. As our inspection of this remarkable feature of Cornwall was to be reserved till we had the advantage of being conducted through the mines by an intelligent friend at Penrhyn, we did not permit ourselves to be led astray by such *tempting* objects, but continued our course through this bald but valuable country till within half a mile of our intended stage.

Here our attention was directed to an old barn to the left hand, remarkable for having been the scene of an event that furnished the plot of one of the most tragical and affecting of our English plays. I allude to "The Fatal Curiosity," written by Lillo; a drama that had its origin in a tale of family distress that literally happened at a dwelling-house

which formerly stood on the spot we were now upon. The story is as follows:

During the seventeenth century, a family (whose name I have forgotten) that had long lived at Penrhyn in credit, was, by some unforeseen reverse of fortune, suddenly reduced from affluence to bankruptcy: It consisted of a father, mother, and son; a youth idolized by his parents, beloved by his friends, and who had been nourished up at home with all the tenderness which usually centers in an only child. Unwilling to be a burthen upon his father and mother, when the poor wreck of their substance was scarcely sufficient to support themselves, and anxious by his own exertions to repay the debt of gratitude which he owed them, and repair the havock that misfortune had made in their affairs; the generous youth determined to seek employment abroad, and having acquired a competence, to return and share it with his parents. The hour at length arrived, when this little family group were, for the first time, to be separated; and they, who, like yourself, have experienced the blessings of domestic harmony, will readily conceive the sorrows of the parting. But the hapless youth had other ties to England, besides his father's roof. A secret attachment had long subsisted between a young lady of Penrhyn, and himself, which, though the misfortunes of his family could

not extinguish, they still rendered it necessary to conceal. The claims of duty were, however, paramount to those of love; he pressed his treasure to his bosom, and hastened on board the ship that was to tear him from all he valued upon earth. The parents retired from Penrhyn, and with their small remains of fortune, entered on a farm in the hamlet of Tremough. Here a few years rolled tediously and mournfully on, enlivened indeed occasionally by accounts of their son's success, but past by them, for the most part, in sorrow and suffering; in struggling with ill success, and in anticipating all the horrors of ultimate want. The young man, in the mean time, having acquired what to his moderate wishes seemed enough, determined to return to England; and without notifying his intention to his parents, embarked on board a ship bound for his native land. He landed at Falmouth, and flew like lightning to Penrhyn, where constancy and love awaited him, and soon obliterated from his memory all the pains of absence. To enhance the joy of his parents at his unexpected return, it was agreed that he should disguise himself, go to their dwelling in the evening, pass the night there as a stranger, and acknowledge himself in the morning for their long-lost son. The night was dark and dismal,

"Sky lour'd, and muttering thunder, some sad drops
"Wept,"

at the approaching scene of woe; but the youth, unsuspicious of the portent, and exulting in his heart at the near termination of his parents' difficulties, went gaily on, carrying under his arm a casket of his treasure, which he intended in the morning to be the offering of his filial affection. He knocked at the door, and craved a lodging, promising to remunerate his hosts for the trouble he should give. The chance of a trifling gain was an object to the wretched pair, and they granted his request. In his momentary absence from the room, the mother with a *fatal curiosity* uncovered the casket, and saw that its contents were gold. Her heart was now at war with feeling. The frightful form of approaching poverty had long floated before her fancy, and filled her soul with dark and desperate ideas. The treasure promised the means of saving her from the shame and sufferings of want, and she determined to possess it. The youth now retired to bed; when the mother disclosed to her husband the discovery she had made; and urged him to secure it for themselves by *murdering* the stranger! The horror of the deed for a moment suspended its execution, but ah! my friend, what a foe is poverty to virtue! the scruples of the husband were quickly overcome, and he determined to commit the horrid act. The ruthless pair accordingly proceeded to the

stranger's chamber, and whilst the mother held the light, the father thrust his knife into the heart of his guest. To avoid detection, it was necessary to bury the body of the murdered youth immediately; but what stretch of imagination can conceive the agony of the wretched parents, when, from some private marks, known only to themselves, they discovered their victim to be their only child! Happily the story ceases here; nor, were tradition more compleat, would I attempt to delineate those feelings of unutterable remorse which such a catastrophe must have produced in the survivors of this dreadful drama.

To them who have been accustomed only to the towns on the great roads of the kingdom, or those near its metropolis, even the second-rate towns of Cornwall would not be considered as deficient both in elegance and convenience. They are narrow and irregular, and what is still worse, generally paved with pebbles from the shore, the points of which being turned upwards form a footing neither safe nor pleasant. Penrhyn is remedying this inconvenience, being at this moment under an improvement which will conduce much to the comfort of the inhabitants, by having its foot-way flagged with moor-stone. It is this article which at present forms the chief export of the town; as the durability

of the Cornish granite has rendered the demand for it very large of late. Government is the chief purchaser of it for the use of the dock-yards; where it is applied to many purposes, in which hitherto it had been the custom to use timber. It is brought down from the moors, worked, and delivered at the quay at 2*s.* 6*d.* per square foot; an high, but not an exhorbitant price, as it should seem, when the hardness of the material, the great expense in tools, and the difficulty of working it, are considered. The appearance of Penrhyn is enlivened, and its situation rendered highly advantageous, by a branch of Falmouth harbour, called King's-road, flowing up to the town. The tower of St. Gluvias, the parish church of Penrhyn, on the opposite side of the water, rising from a tuft of trees, would in any situation be deemed an agreeable object; in Cornwall it was *stellas inter luna minores*, and assumed additional beauty from the rarity of such picturesque objects in the county.

The route to FALMOUTH, distant two miles from Penrhyn, skirts for some distance along the shore of King's-road, and then mounts a hill which takes a more direct course to this town. The views, for the greatest part of the ride, are strikingly fine; gradually expanding under the eye, and introducing in quick succession new features of grandeur and beauty.

Amongst these objects, the numerous ramifications, sweeps, creeks, and rivers of Falmouth harbour, one of the most capacious and commodious in Europe, claim the chief attention. Close to the left appears King's-road, losing itself in the larger expanse of water, called Cerrig-road; whose northern termination is seen dividing into a variety of lesser branches, indenting the country to the right and left. Farther to the south, in the same direction, the eastern shore of Cerrig water spreads itself in long extent before the eye; together with the country that skirts it, including several towns and villages, the castle of St. Mawe's, the towns of Flushing, St. Just, their little creeks, and commodious ports. Immediately in front is Falmouth, its shipping, and quays, washed by the waves of its magnificent harbour; and defended by the proud fortress of Pendennis, which crowns with great dignity the summit of a promontory, that braves the ocean a mile and a half to the south-east of the town. It must be confessed, however, that the charms of Falmouth are *external;* and lie without its immediate limits. Irregular in form, with houses of no elegance; streets that follow the capricious risings and declivities of the unequal ground on which they are built, and paved with the execrable pointed pebbles from the shore; it has no claim to

attention, except the activity of its trade, the bustle of its quays, and the great variety which it exhibits of human countenances, whose commercial concerns bring them from all parts of Europe, in the packets which sail at stated days in the week and month to the various ports of the West-Indies and the Continent. It is, however, a place of great population, wealth, and respectability; and from the unequalled convenience of its harbour, deserves a much larger portion of the attention and encouragement of government than it has been honoured with. Unhappily, to use a proverbial expression, it has *no friend at court*; in other words, it does not return any members to the British senate; though its dirty little opposite neighbour, St. Mawe's, a mean village, with no house of GOD in it, and few houses fit for the residence of man, enjoys the privilege of being represented in Parliament. This will account for the petty intrigues which have always interposed to destroy any scheme for the aggrandizement of Falmouth, by turning the attention of Parliament to its harbour; though one of the greatest naval names of the present day, Lord St. Vincent, has repeatedly declared, that with a few very practicable improvements, it would furnish the best situation for dock-yards, and other naval accommodations, in Europe.

Falmouth, perhaps, contains a greater proportion of persons adhering to different religious sects, than any other town of its size in the kingdom, and (what is equally remarkable, and well deserving the attention of high priests and zealots,) all living in harmony and charity together. The Jews form a considerable part of its population, and have a synagogue for the celebration of their religious rites. Still more numerous are the Quakers; highly respectable, and much esteemed for that simplicity of manners, inoffensiveness of behaviour, and strictness of morality, which characterize and dignify the sect; and preserve, amidst the ruins of Christianity, a pattern of the original fabrick. Though more remarkable for the retiring virtues, let it not be thought that this worthy description of people exhibit no examples of acts of splendid excellence. A proof of this occurred a few years ago in Falmouth, which should be recorded to the honour of the sect, and the family to which the credit subject of the anecdote belonged:—Towards the conclusion of the American war, when France had become an ally of the United States, a ship of St. Ives, in which Mr. Joseph Fox, a surgeon, at Falmouth, was part owner, being fitted out by the majority of proprietors as a letter of marque, took several French prizes on a successful cruize, and

brought them into port: the cargoes were of course sold, and the amount of it divided amongst the owners of the vessel. Mr. Fox, however, considered this legalized species of robbery in a very different point of view with his partners in the ship, and having received his share in the concern, actually employed an agent to go to Paris, and enquire by advertisement in the Gazette, who were the proprietors of the captured vessels, that he might restore to them all he had received of the unhallowed spoil. Dr. Franklin, who has honoured this anecdote with the mention of it in one of his essays, (but without mentioning the name of Mr. Fox,) says at the conclusion of the recital, "this conscientious man is a "Quaker."* To this I would add, that however lofty this effort of virtue may appear to be to the generality of mankind, it will not seem extraordinary to those who are well acquainted with the principles and practices of the sect in general, or have the still greater happiness of knowing personally the excellencies of the remaining relations of

* Franklin's Essays, vol. ii. p. 119. The whole of this essay of its immortal author is well worth the attention of states as well as individuals. It is entitled, "On the Criminal Laws, and the Practice of Privateering."

the *truly great* man who has set such a brilliant example of justice and honour to mankind.

Falmouth draws considerable sums of money from the fleets that are detained at the chops of the Channel by contrary winds; particularly the outward-bound ones, which seek refuge in its safe and capacious harbour, and frequently wait here for many weeks, till the gales are more propitious. An instance of this accidental but beneficial embargo had occurred a few weeks before we were there; when General Spencer's expedition, consisting of 7000 men, had been wind-bound in the harbour for nine weeks, and left 30,000*l.* behind them when they went away. At the moment of our entering the town, a bustling scene of embarkation of troops that had been confined here for several days, was taking place; the regiments under the command of General Acland, destined for the assistance of the Patriots in Spain. The wind had suddenly veered about to a fair point, and signals were out for the immediate return of those who were on shore on board their respective ships. Never was a scene of greater hurry or animation, or one that more irresistibly carried the imagination along with it. The real glory of the cause in which they were about to engage flashed upon our fancy; and "perish the man whose wishes of success do

" not accompany them," was the involuntary, secret suggestion of our minds. We considered that it was a *cause* which involved the political existence of a nation brave, honourable, and virtuous; of a people placed in a predicament new to mankind, and trying an experiment as important as it is unexampled; of a people deserted by its government, and energizing for itself; contending, in the literal sense of the words, *pro aris et focis*, against an unprincipled ambition, that having crushed and disgraced its enemies, had now turned its arms against its friends, and thus subverted every principle of justice, and violated every feeling of honour. Tax us not then with enthusiastic folly, if I say that the sight before us not only interested our feelings in the success of the cause which had occasioned it, but at the same time filled our minds with the most pleasing anticipation of its eventual triumph.* We

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* The above was written before that inauspicious omen, the celebrated Convention with *Junot*, had taken place; an event fraught with such triumph and advantage to the enemy, as must cast the most disastrous gloom over the future prospects of the assertors of Spanish liberty.

" Hide, blushing Glory," *Cintra*'s fatal " day."

recollected, that the Spaniards, though abandoned by their natural protectors, are placed, perhaps, by that very desertion, in a situation more favourable for exertion than even had they possessed such inefficient defenders. For what is the amount of their loss? They are now set free from old, hereditary, corrupt rulers,—from persons who governed by rote,—from the creatures of intrigue, or at best the creatures of form and precedent—from the feeble beings who will only suffer men to serve the country according to their pedigrees, contemners of merit and personal acquirements, scoffers at the divinity of talents—to whom, melancholy to reflect, the fate of Europe has been entrusted for the last twenty years, and in whose hands the cause of regular government and national independence has been placed, at a moment when all the bad passions

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It is some consolation, however, under the pressure of this national misfortune, to observe, that the *people* feel the disgrace which has been accumulated upon their country, and are seeking, with a becoming earnestness, for a full, free, fair, and impartial enquiry into the conduct of the authors of it; that punishment may fall wherever the crime originated; that the stain may be wiped from the military glory of the country; and some reparation be made to the wounded honour of the nation.

of man's nature were let loose against them, and had armed all the genius of a mighty people for their destruction.*

Being anxious to contemplate so interesting a sight as a large fleet under sail, after a short stay in Falmouth we proceeded to Pendennis Castle, which would afford us an opportunity of following the expedition with our eye till they were lost beyond the horizon. The situation of this fortress, a mile to the southward of Falmouth, is bold and commanding; embracing a view of a great extent of coast, and a vast sweep of ocean. Its works are respectable, and manned by a body of artillery, with a governor, lieutenant-governor, &c. It is probable that such an advantageous scite would not have been overlooked by our military ancestors, under the different dynasties of Romans, Saxons, and Normans; but the present fortress dates no further back than the time of Henry VIII. who built a castle on this promontory, which was afterwards enlarged and strengthened by his daughter Elizabeth. History† tells us, that it was bravely defended against

* See an admirable and eloquent disquisition on Spanish affairs, in Edinburgh Review, No. xxiv. p. 439.

† Grose's Antiquities, vol. viii. p. 43.

the Parliamentary forces by John Arundel, of Trerice, then nearly eighty years of age; who was assisted by his son Richard, a colonel in the Royal army, (afterwards created Lord Arundel of Trerice,) and many other loyal gentlemen of the county of Cornwall. They held it, with unconquerable perseverance, till they had not provision for twenty-four hours, and then negociated with such seeming indifference, and insisted so firmly on the articles they required, that the enemy, ignorant of their situation, granted them their own conditions, which were as good as had been given to any garrison in the kingdom. The scite of the castle anciently belonged to the Killigrews, a respectable family of Falmouth in former times. On our return we passed their mansion, which stands on the left of the road, and still preserves some features of its original architecture. This, and Mr. Fox's beautiful seat, (Grove Hill,) which lies in its neighbourhood, and possesses every circumstance of beauty, and advantage of situation, are the only private residences that claim any attention in the vicinity of Falmouth.

Our curiosity had already been excited by a distant view of the famous Druidical Remain in Constantine parish, called by the *initiated* the *Tolmen*, or Hole of Stone, by the unlearned the *Cornish Peb-*

ble, whose huge bulk lifting itself high in air, is seen for miles before it is approached. Our kind and intelligent friend, to whom we had been introduced at Penrhyn, was both our guide to this ancient monument of superstition through an intricate road of eight miles, and the interpreter of its uses and designs when we reached it. Nothing can be more striking than the appearance of this object. It diffused around it the magic influence ascribed by the poet to these druidical remains;

- - - - - - - - " And aw'd our souls,
" As if the very Genius of the place
" Himself appear'd, and with terrific tread
" Stalk'd through his drear domain."

Highly appropriate to its tremendous character is the savage spot on which it stands. The first idea that impressed our minds on approaching it, was the *gloomy nature* of that superstition which had selected such a desert for its rites, the focal point of solitude and desolation, where nothing met the eye around but nature in her primæval rudeness; vast rocks of granite starting out of the ground, of every form, and in every direction; occupying the same places, and maintaining the same positions into which they had been thrown, by the last general convulsion of

our planet. But, however extraordinary these individual masses might have appeared to us, had they been seen independently of the Tolmen, our attention was almost exclusively occupied, and our wonder entirely absorbed, by this superlative object; which, like Milton's Satan,

> - - - - - - - " Above the rest,
> " In shape and gesture proudly eminent,
> " Stood like a tower."

An account of its dimensions and form will afford you the best idea of the impression produced on the mind by its appearance. The length of the Tolmen is 33 feet, its breadth 18 feet 6 inches, and its depth 14 feet 6 inches; measuring 97 feet in circumference, and weighing at least 750 tons. Its figure approaches to that of an egg; the extremities pointing due north and south, and the sides facing the opposite points of the compass. A natural acervation of granite forms the broad foundation of the Tolmen, which is elevated on the points of two of these masses that lift themselves higher than those around. These lie detached from each other, so as to allow a passage of three or four feet wide, and nearly as much in height, for any one to creep through whose curiosity can encounter a little

inconvenience.* Whether this huge fragment of rock were placed in its present situation by mechanical processes, with which we are no longer acquainted; or by the mere dint of multitudinous and unconquerable exertion, which we know has effected, and can effect prodigies of labour, for, as Johnson observes, "savages in all countries have "patience proportionate to their unskilfulness, and "are content to attain their end by very tedious "methods;" or whether the stones remain at this moment as they were originally placed by the hand of Nature, and owe nothing more to human industry than the removal of the bare earth in which they were at first surrounded and concealed, has been disputed with all that ardour, which questions, that never can be demonstrated, invariably excite. We

* It seems probable that this passage was originally the instrument of holy juggle, and applied to the superstitious purposes, either of *purification* or *penance*, or for the removal of bodily disorders. In the county of Waterford, in Ireland, is a druidical remain of this kind, which vulgar superstition still believes to retain the power of curing rheumatism. It is called St. Dedan's Rock, and lies shelving upon the point of a rock; and on the patron-day of this saint, great numbers creep under this stone three times, in order, as they pretend, to cure or prevent pains in the back.—*History of Waterford, p. 70.*

were inclined, after an attentive consideration of the Tolmen, to attribute its elevation to the art of man, and for the following reasons: In the first place, the two supporting stones appeared to us to afford the appearance of their having been fitted to receive their incumbent weight; in the second, the exact correspondence of the four sides of the Tolmen to the cardinal points of the compass, seemed to indicate astronomical design; and in the third, its regular form and horizontal position could not, we thought, be considered as the result of accident, but as a combination produced by human labour. Of the truth of this last conclusion we were more fully assured by a survey of its upper surface, which may be ascended by a ladder at the foot of the Tolmen. Here the work of art was too obvious to be overlooked or mistaken; the whole of this exterior having evidently been first made level, and then excavated into numerous hollows or basins. Of these depressions the two most capacious are at the north and south extremities of the surface; the former being about five feet, the latter nearly seven feet in length; which seems to have been intended to receive some fluid from the smaller ones, through little channels, connecting them with each other. The basins situated near the rim of the surface, have also small apertures to discharge their contents, not

leading, however, into the horizontal hollows, but taking a direction down the sides of the Tolmen, and conducting their stream into other basins, scooped out in some flat rocks below. As these regular hollows are without any doubt the productions of art, much has it exercised the ingenuity of the learned, to discover the use to which they were originally applied. Seen through the observation of twenty centuries, the superstition of Druidism is but dimly discovered, and none of its parts are clearly defined. Like other objects, therefore, perceived in a fog, it has been magnified by the medium of vision; and a complexity and refinement attributed to it, which could not belong to any religious system, in a state of society so rude as the condition of our ancestors in the druidical times. Magic and wonder-working have been connected with its

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - " rites
" Mysterious; rites of such strange potency,
" As done in open day, would dim the sun,
" Though thron'd in noon-tide brightness:"

and even our rock-basins have been made to serve the combined purposes of murder and enchantment. The probability, however, is, that their use was much more natural and simple. Purification by *water* was one of the most ancient religious rites,

of which we have any knowledge ; and though first made a positive instituton of worship by the Mosaical law, it is likely that the practice had existed from the earliest ages of mankind. The use of this element, however, in the religious rites of the ancient world was not confined to lustration alone ; we have accumulated proofs, in profane as well as sacred writers, that *libations* were made of water both as acts of propitiation and as testimonies of gratitude.* But whether it was required in the sacred ceremonies, for purifying the worshippers, or as an offering to the deity, it is but reasonable to suppose, *that* water would be most carefully selected for the hallowed purpose which should be least polluted by heterogeneous substances. Now it is obvious that the most defecated state of this element, is that which falls from heaven under the forms of dew, snow, or rain ; which having been produced by evaporation from the earth, and condensation in the atmosphere, must be entirely free from all foreign and polluting particles. Hence it necessarily became an object of care with the priesthood to provide receptacles to catch these precious

* See that most learned work of Spencer's De Leg. Hebræorum, lib. iv. c. ii. p. 1098.

distillations of the skies, and the method adopted by the Druids for this purpose was, by exposing stones of a large and flat surface to the open air, which, being furnished with hollowed basins, connected with each other by communicating channels, would collect and retain whatever moisture might descend from above, either in the visible showers of rain or snow, or in the unseen form of nightly dews. It is to this Druidical custom of collecting the last-mentioned production of the atmosphere, and the purpose of lustration to which it was applied, that Mason alludes in one of his chorusses :

> " Lift your boughs of vervain blue,
> " Dipt in cold September dew ;
> " And dash the moisture, chaste and clear,
> " O'er the ground, and through the air."

The above reasoning will, I think, not only sufficiently account for those artificial hollows which occur on the surface of the Tolmen I have described, but also for the like appearances to be found on all Druidical altars throughout the North of Europe, which indisputably exhibited the same rites, and served the same purposes, with our Cornish Pebble. The same principle explains the concavities in the stones that surround it on the ground below, which were obviously intended to receive the sacred stream

that fell from the surface of the upper stone, and to preserve as much as possible of this pure, precious, and hallowed element.*

The Tolmen was only an introduction to the Druidical remains which our obliging conductors intended for our inspection. We hastened therefore from this detached monument of Celtic superstition, to one of more ample extent and greater variety, the celebrated Hill of Carn-bre, which we reached after a ride of nine or ten miles. The broad and craggy summit of this hill, crowned with a British fortress, and rough with carns, is seen from afar, frowning with barrenness, and towering over the adjacent country. It lies about two miles to the westward of Redruth. A copper-mine has been recently opened at its foot, and named with sufficient propriety, from its situation, the Druid; the works of which are supplied with water from a copious

* I am informed by my accomplished friend Dr. Charles Parry, of Bath, that Druidical monuments, with basins of this description, are not uncommon in some parts of Sweden; and that a remnant of the ancient superstitious veneration paid to them and their contents may still be traced, in a practice common with the peasantry of that country, of throwing into their concavities little pieces of money as they pass by them.

spring near the summit of the hill, conducted to them through a range of iron pipes. Its depth at present is fifty-two fathoms; its ore rich, worth about 15*l.* per ton. Mr. Borlase, who has exhausted the subject of Druidism, and who viewed Carn-bre not only with the eye of an *amateur*, but with a mind stored with good sound learning, has left us so complete a description of this extraordinary place, that it would be superfluous, if not presumptuous, to attempt another delineation of it: particularly as its appearance is much the same now, as it was forty years ago, with the exception of its having lost a few of its stones, which have been used by the proprietors of the hill, or split and pillaged by the people of the neighbourhood. The features of Carn-bre, indeed, are not of a very destructible kind; for what can displace rocks which were stationed here at the creation, or deform a surface condemned to eternal and irremediable sterility? It may be sufficient therefore to say, that the surface of the hill is covered with circles, cromlechs, and altars, disposed after regular plans, and included within walls, which marked the precincts of the holy ground. It seems, indeed, to have been the Jerusalem of the south-western Druids of Britain; nor perhaps is there in Europe, a spot where the character of their most holy places is better illustrated or defined. Like Zion

of old, too, it seems to have been the seat of strength, as well as the residence of piety, being defended by a fortress certainly of British construction, and probably coeval with the neighbouring ruder remains of superstition. The older part of this castle (for it has been added to of late years) is august in its appearance, and singular in its structure. Its foundation is laid on a very irregular ledge of vast rocks, whose surfaces being of different heights, occasion the rooms on the ground-floor to be equally uneven also. Another irregularity arises from the circumstance of these rocks not being contiguous to each other, which of course obliged the architect to contrive so many arches between them as would carry the wall from one to the other. As the ledge on which the building stands is narrow, the rooms are small in proportion; and the original rocks being much higher in one point than another, one portion of the fortress contains three stories of windows, whilst the other has but one. The walls are pierced throughout by loop-holes to descry the enemy, or to permit the arrows of the garrison to be discharged on them as they approached. It was near this fortress, that in the month of June 1749, a large collection of gold coins was found, the production of a British mint anterior to the Roman invasion; a few years previous to which discovery,

several *celts* had been dug up in the same neighbourhood; instruments supposed to have been used by the ancient Britons for warlike purposes. Perhaps, however, you will now have had enough of the "tales of other times," and be glad to be relieved from Druidism and its rites; and to diversify the scene with a view of the largest Copper Mine in Cornwall, to which we proceeded after having minutely inspected every part of the Carn-bre hill.

Dolcooth mine lies about three miles to the westward of Carn-bre, in a country whose very entrails have been torn out by the industry of man, stimulated by the *auri sacra fames*. Here every thing is upon a great scale, and gives a wonderful idea of the results which human powers are capable of producing when concentrated into one point, and directed to one end. The works of the mine stretch upwards of a mile in length from east to west; an extent of ground penetrated by innumerable shafts, and honeycombed by as many subterraneous passages. Its depth is 1200 feet. Five engines are occupied in bringing up ore and rubbish; and three in freeing the mine from water. The largest of these, made by Bolton and Watts, is upon a stupendous scale; but contrived with such ingenious mechanism, that its vast operations are performed with an ease and quickness truly wonderful. The construction of the

beam, upon whose strength the whole success of the machine depends, is particularly admired. It was quite an awful sight to contemplate this prodigious body in action, bowing and elevating alternately its enormous crest, executing the work of 200 horses, and bringing up at every stroke (seven of which it makes in a minute) upwards of fifty gallons of water. Darwin's animated description of the steam-engine, naturally suggested itself to our minds, and we confessed that "imagination might "be listed under the banner of science"* without endangering the truth or accuracy of her mistress.

"Nymphs! you erewhile o'er simmering cauldrons play'd,
"And called delighted *Savery* to your aid;
"Bade round the youth explosive steam aspire,
"In gathering clouds, and wing'd the wave with fire;
"Bade with cold streams the quick expansion stop,
"And sunk the immense of vapour to a drop.—
"Press'd by the ponderous air the piston falls,
"Resistless, sliding through its iron walls:
"Quick moves the balanc'd beam, of giant-birth,
"Wields his large limbs, and nodding shakes the earth."

The unceasing rattle of this gigantic engine, the deep and dark abyss in which it works, and the smoke

* Darwin's Œconomy of Vegetation, 1st canto, line 253. See his "Apology."

that issued from the horrid mouth of the pit, formed a combination that could not be regarded without terror by those who are unaccustomed to such scenes.

The persons employed at Dolcooth mine, including men, women, and children, those who are above and those who are under the earth, amount to about 1600.—Its produce is from 60 to 70 tons of copper per month, and about 30*l.* worth of tin. The copper is worth, when dressed, 90*l.* per ton. But in order to give you a clear idea of the magnitude of the works, as well as of the expence at which they are carried on, the following items of monthly charges in different articles used in its operations, will, perhaps, be more satisfactory than the most laboured description. The mine consumes (per month)

In Coals, to the amount of	700*l.*
Timber	300*l.*
Cordage	300*l.*
Gunpowder for blasting	150*l.*
Candles	200*l.*
Iron	150*l.*
Sundries	about 2500*l.*

The whole business of this vast concern is under the superintendance and management of a purser, or book-keeper, at eight guineas a month; a chief captain, at thirteen guineas per month; eight inferior

captains, at six guineas per month; and an engineer. The miners provide tools, candles, and gunpowder, are paid no regular wages for their labour, but receive a certain proportion of the profits of the copper, when it is purchased by the merchants. The proprietors are at this time working five lodes or veins of ore. But however considerable the business of Dolcooth mine may be at present, still the season of *her* greatest prosperity is past; (I use the feminine pronominal adjective, as the Cornish men, with a gallantry peculiar to their country, have applied that gender to their most valuable possessions;) she has heretofore employed 2000 workmen, and cleared on an average 6000*l.* per month. But copper was then 180*l.* per ton; it is now 90*l.*! another pleasing instance of the *blessed* effects produced on the commerce of a country by the war-system.* The largest sum ever cleared by her monthly produce, in the term of forty-five years, during which she has been worked, was 7040*l.*

We could not quit Dolcooth mine without expressing the most grateful acknowledgments to the son of the chief captain, Mr. Rule, who led us through her extensive works, explained their pro-

* Since writing the above, I understand that the price of copper has again risen to 110*l.* per ton.

cesses, and afterwards gave us the clearest ideas of their subterraneous geography, by several admirable plans and sections of it, executed by himself. When we regarded these scientific delineations, the productions of an untaught youth, *abnormis sapiens*, and saw that his mechanical powers were accompanied with good taste, and fine sense, rendered still more amiable by native courtesy and unassuming modesty, we could not but lament that so much genius and worth should be *damnati ad metalla;* that they were not fostered by patronage, or brought into a sphere better calculated for their cultivation, expansion, and perfection, than the mining county of Cornwall.

As our share of entertainment had been so large in the former part of the day, we had no right to complain of the dreariness of our afternoon's ride, which led us for ten miles through a country as barren of interesting objects, with the exception of some mines to the right and left, as any part of Cornwall. A busy scene of commercial bustle, however, occurred at PHILLACK and HEYL; and the church of the former village, seen across its creek, nestling itself in trees, and accompanied with a few cottages, recalled the associations connected with the picturesque. This quiet scene was agreeably opposed by the animation of the creek, which contained a pretty considerable fleet of trading ships

from Bristol and Wales, which bring iron and coal for the mines, and lime-stones for flux, and load back with copper; as many of the proprietors find it less expensive to export the ore to Wales for smelting, than to manufacture it on the spot. This, however, is not the case with all the ore; a part of which is smelted at Heyl, and then rolled into flat sheets at the *pounding-houses*, about three miles to the southward of this place. The processes of roasting and refining the ore at Heyl, during which it passes through six or seven furnaces, are highly interesting; but the pleasure arising from a sight so curious to those who are not familiar with it, is greatly damped by the appearance of the workmen engaged in it. Nothing indeed can be more shocking than this scene, as an humane and enlightened Tourist has observed.* "So dreadfully deleterious "are the fumes of arsenic constantly impregnating "the air of these places, and so profuse is the per- "spiration occasioned by the heat of the furnaces, "that those who have been employed at them but "a few months become most emaciated figures, and "in the course of a few years are generally laid in "their graves. Some of the poor wretches who "were lading the liquid metal from the furnaces to

* Matôn, vol. i. p. 233.

" the moulds, looked more like walking corpses than
" living beings. How melancholy a circumstance
" to reflect upon, and yet to how few does it occur
" that in preparing the materials of those numerous
" utensils which we are taught to consider as indis-
" pensable in our kitchens, several of our fellow
" creatures are daily deprived of the greatest bless-
" ing of life, and too seldom obtain relief but in
" losing life itself!"

Having obtained very particular directions, and collected all our caution, for both are necessary in this passage, we crossed Heyl river over its sands, which, when the tide is out, are left bare for a few hours; not indeed without some little apprehension, as many instances are remembered of travellers having been entrapped by these treacherous Syrtes, and reduced to great danger, if not entirely suffocated, before they could be extricated from them. These unpleasant considerations however were quickly dissipated by the beauty of the view at Lelant, which embraced the mouth of Heyl river; the busy picture of Phillack creek, and the deep and capacious bay of St. Ives, formed by Godrevy head and island to the east, and the black promontory which rises over St. Ives, to the west. A view of the same kind, but more diversified, occurred again at Tregenna, the seat of —— Stephens, esq; which crowns the summit of a

hill half a mile from St. Ives. The house is modern, and built in imitation of a castle. Though this stile of architecture may in general be pronounced as little less than absurd when adopted in modern mansions, yet in the case of Tregenna, we allowed that it was justified by its situation. Its appearance from the Channel must be formidable; and might possibly assist in deterring an enemy from attempting to land on an exposed coast, by holding out the semblance of defensive strength, which in fact it does not possess. Independently, however, of this mock fortress, St. Ives has a slight protection in its battery, consisting of twelve pieces of ordnance, placed on the promontory to the north-east of the town; from which it is separated by a sandy isthmus. This is a fine abrupt steep, ribbed with romantic rocks, against which the waves dash with prodigious fury when the wind is to the northward.* A strong gale blew from that quarter when we visited it, and threw a terrible sea into the harbour. In general, we were informed, this noble basin was considered as very safe anchorage, though storms have occurred which covered its surface with wrecks. On the 14th day of the preceding November, a

* It has also a beacon, and a small chapel dedicated to St. Michael, a sea-mark, kept in repair by the Corporation.

melancholy scene of this kind had been exhibited to the inhabitants of St. Ives; when three vessels were thrown upon the rocks of the harbour before their eyes, totally destroyed, and the greater part of their crews swallowed up. The affecting sight made its proper impression on some of the spectators, who immediately endeavoured to raise a subscription for building and maintaining a *life-boat*, to prevent in future the most dreadful consequences of such shipwrecks, the loss of the unhappy seamen; but so insensible were the merchants of the place to the dangers and sufferings of the hardy race who fill their coffers, that the philanthropic attempt was frustrated by the impossibility of raising the poor pittance required for the purpose! As we had this information from a merchant of St. Ives, I take it for granted that it is correct. Should it not be so, I must crave pardon of its affluent inhabitants for a representation so disgraceful to their feelings. The town is large but irregular; intersected by narrow streets which run in the most intricate and capricious directions. It is said by wild tradition to have received its name from St. Ivo, a Persian bishop, who came hither from Ireland, and converted its Pagan inhabitants. St. Leonard also was a patron of the town, at the north end of which was a chapel dedicated to him, where

prayers were formerly read to the fishermen before they went to sea, to beg success on their undertaking, by a friar who was stationary here. The congregations are said to have paid him for his trouble, with a part of their fish, when they returned. The form appeared to us to be even now kept up by a poor fanatic, whom we found addressing this incorrigible race of men upon the Quay. His congregation, however, did not appear to be very attentive to him, nor could we wonder at his eloquence being thrown away upon them, when we learnt that he was generally *drunk*, and, at his intervals of inebriety, always *mad*.

The trade of St. Ives *was*, and I hope will be again, very considerable. Coals from Wales, salt from Liverpool, and wares from Bristol, were its chief imports; for which it exported an immense quantity of pilchards. Till of late years the bay was remarkable for the plenty of this fish caught in it; but owing to some unknown, though doubtless powerful cause, few pilchards have been taken here latterly. Busy preparations, however, continue to be made every year for the fishery, in the hope that they may again visit the shore; and a man is stationed in a little cottage on an elevation at the bottom of the bay to look out for and give notice of the approach of a shoal of pilchards, which

may always be determined by the red appearance they diffuse over the surface of the water from the hue of their fins. It is not, however, merely as an article of *trade* that the pilchards are important to the inhabitants of St. Ives; they constitute the chief article of the food of the lower orders of its inhabitants, who suffer much from the scarcity of this essential part of their diet. Do not suppose, however, that I mean to assert their *bill of fare* should be confined to pilchards alone. No: the inhabitants of Cornwall are ingenious cooks, and convert many things into viands, which less œconomical people would waste or disregard. As a proof of this, take the following anecdote which occurred here a few months since, and was told us by an authority that we could not resist.

The Cornish people, you know, are remarkably fond of *pies;* indeed they have a proverb expressive of this partiality, for it is said, "if a Cornish "man were to catch the *Devil*, he would put him in "a pie" A Cockney traveller, who had a mind to see the world, strayed down as far as St. Ives in his tour. He entered a public-house there in the evening, and called for supper. "Have you any beef "for a steak?" 'No!' "Any veal for a cutlet?" 'No!' "Any mutton for a chop?" 'No!' "What, no meat?" 'No! an please your

'honour, except a nice *lammy-pie*, which was 'baked to-day.' The traveller, ravenous as the grave, licked his lips at the prospect of so nice a thing as a cold *lamb-pie*, and ordered it up. Hunger was his sauce; he ate heartily, and relished his meal exceedingly.—He passed the night in horrors, but had no idea they arose from the indigestible quality of his supper till the next morning, when he was about to mount his horse: 'Well, sir,' said the ostler, seeing he was a stranger, 'how 'did you like mistress's lammy-pie last night?' "Excellent," replied he; "'twas the best *lamb* I "ever tasted." 'Lord love ye,' returned John, 'it was not *that: lammy* pie is not made of *lamb*.' "Why, what the devil was it then?" exclaimed the horrified traveller. 'Why, our poor *Kiddy*, to be 'sure,' returned the other, 'who died yesterday 'of the *shab*.'*

I am, dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

R. W.

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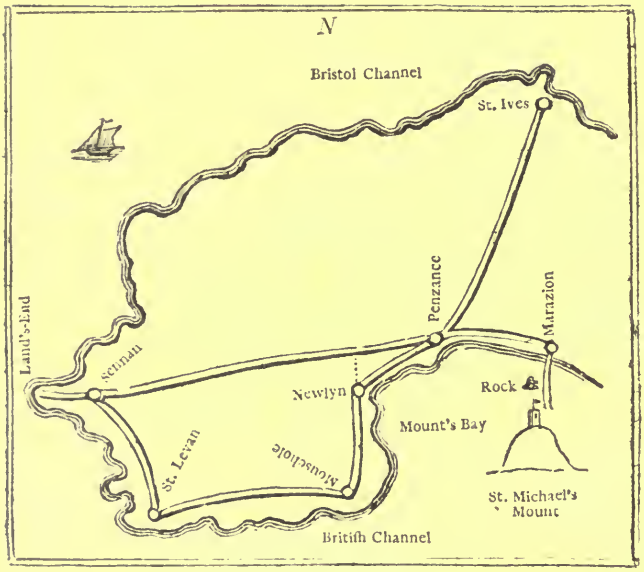
* A cutaneous disorder to which kids are liable.



LETTER V.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR SIR, *Marazion, Aug.* 14.

THE breadth of the county of Cornwall is very unequal. At its eastern extremity from Morwinstow on the north, to Ramshead on the south, it measures upwards of forty-three miles. Five and twenty miles further to the west, from Padstow to Fowey, the distance is decreased to eighteen miles.

From the bottom of St. Ives bay to Mount's bay, it is contracted to five miles; and if we go to the head of Heyl river, we are within three miles of the waters of the British Channel. As it stretches further to the west, however, its diameter extends, and near the Land's-end, from Pendeen, on the north, to Trereen castle, on the south, the distance measures upwards of nine miles. Our course conducted us over the narrowest part of the county, through a district fruitful only in vast blocks of granite, which lay in wild disorder all around us, bounded in the distance by hills crowned with artificial carnes,* or natural rocky acervations. As the mind cannot dwell long with pleasure on objects which have neither beauty to interest, nor variety to enliven it, we passed on through the region of barrenness and desolation, with some impatience for a change of scene; and were at length gratified from the summit of a rising ground with a picture as grand as it was diversified. The British Channel

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* Johnson says, "a cairne is a heap of stones thrown "upon the grave of one eminent for dignity of birth, or "splendour of achievements." *Hebrides.* This may be the strict definition of the word: but in Cornwall it is applied more loosely; to Druidical altars, and heaps of stones, appropriated to the purposes of worship.

filled the distance in front: to the right and left the bold black coasts of Cornwall rose in gloomy majesty: before us was spread Mount's Bay, deeply indenting the land; its gentle sheltered shores smiling with verdure and cultivation. Towards the north-eastern extremity of this recess, detached from every object that could vie with it in altitude, and of a character entirely novel and unique, St. Michael's Mount, a mighty cone of rugged rock, crowned with Gothic battlements, towered up with superlative dignity. A stream of light thrown by the sun, who was just emerging from a thunder cloud, played at this moment upon its summit, and gave it so prominent a relief from the dark scene below, as to produce an effect almost magical, and create the idea of an air-built citadel. We no longer wondered at the awe with which St. Michael's Mount was regarded by our forefathers, or the *visions* which superstition had attributed to it; for it is an object well calculated to agitate the most sober imagination, and excite fancy to

- - - - "travel beyond sense,
"And picture things unseen."

We caught, however, only a distant passing glance at St. Michael's Mount, reserving it for a later inspection, and passed on to the maritime town of PENZANCE, which lies on the north-western

extremity of its beautiful bay. The mildness of the climate of this place has rendered it for many years past the resort of that happier description of invalids on whom fortune has bestowed the power of seeking health in a more genial air than other parts of England afford; and it must be confessed that when migration is necessary and practicable, a more pleasing retreat cannot be found than Penzance. The town is regular and well-built; the immediate country rich and beautiful; the view, which embraces the whole of Mount's Bay, singular and grand; and the atmosphere so bland as to foster myrtles and other tender plants through all the vicissitudes of a Cornish winter. But alas! my friend, too many "frail memorials" in the church-yard, erected to the memory of those who had been cut off in the flower of youth, convinced us that even Penzance, with all its advantages, offered but a poor defence to the unfortunate victims upon whom that harpy, the *consumption*, had lain its vindictive talons. The admonition which a church-yard affords, is unsuitable to no description of mortals; but I know not that a better lesson could be submitted to the gay and thoughtless *young* than the inscriptions which this contains, commemorative of those who have been hurried from life in its very spring, and numbered with the dead at that age, when presump-

tuous hope is most apt to revel in anticipation of future enjoyment. Amongst other monumental inscriptions in remembrance of early victims to the tomb, we found the following Scandinavian one, which I leave to your Runic lore to explain:

I minde af
NIELS. H. KIER,
Fôd j Wisbye j Holstein,
j Aaret 1789.
Döde j Penzans den 24 Martz 1807.
S'tor er Dog, O Gud, din made Eviger
Din Kieiliged Dôden kan os nu ej
Skade men vi tor" of Legg ned, Rolig
Udi dödens Fayn s'ove sodt j Jesu
Navn jndtel Frydens morgenröde
Va'kker of igien Fra döde.

The exports of Penzance consist chiefly of pilchards and tin, innumerable blocks of which we saw ranged in the open street, ready to be shipped. Valuable as these masses are, their safety is sufficiently secured against the nightly plunderer by their individual weight, which generally amounts to 300lb. The market of Penzance is held twice a week, the less on Tuesday, and the greater on Thursday, and is well supplied with every article of life: fish for the greatest part of the year is almost a drug; pilchards are now selling at one penny per dozen.

We had promised ourselves much pleasure in surveying the celebrated *Wherry Mine*, about half a mile from Penzance, one of the most extraordinary proofs extant of man's disregard of danger in the pursuit of gain, but the works had been for some time discontinued, and we saw only the place where they were carried on, and the skeletons of the machinery used for that purpose. An elegant pen, however, has preserved an account of this interesting mine. "Imagine," says Dr. Maton, "the "descent into a mine through the sea; the miners "working at the depth of seventeen fathoms only "below the waves; the rod of a steam engine, "extending from the shore to the shaft, a distance "of nearly 120 fathoms, and a great number of "men momentarily menaced with an inundation of "the sea, which continually drains in no small quan-"tity through the roof of the mine, and roars loud "enough to be distinctly heard in it! The descent "is by means of a rope tied round the thighs; and "you are let down in a manner exactly the same as "a bucket is into a well; a well indeed it is, for "the water is more than knee deep in many parts "of the mine. The upper part of the shaft resem-"bles an immense iron chimney, elevated about "twelve feet above the level of the sea, and a nar-"row platform leads to it from the beach; close

" to this is the engine-shaft, through which the " water is brought up from below. Tin is the " principal produce of the Wherry Mine. The " inclination of the lode is towards the north, about " six feet in a fathom; and its breadth is thought " to be no less than ten fathoms. The ore is " extremely rich."*

* Maton's Observations, vol. i. p. 209. Hazardous as such a speculation as this seems to be, a mine under still more extraordinary circumstances was formerly worked in Cornwall, in the parish of St. Just, of which Mr. Pryee in his Cornish Mineralogy gives us the following account. " The " mine of Huel-Cock, in the parish of St. Just, is wrought " eighty fathoms in length, under the sea, beyond low water " mark; and the sea, in some places, is but three fathoms " over the back of the workings; insomuch, that the tinners " underneath hear the break, flux, ebb, and reflux of every " wave, which, upon the beach overhead, may be said to have " had the run of the Atlantic Ocean for many hundred " leagues; and consequently are amazingly powerful and " boisterous. They also hear the rumbling noise of every " nodule and fragment of rock, which are continually rolling " upon the submarine stratum; which, altogether, make a " kind of thundering roar, that will surprise and fearfully " engage the attention of the curious stranger. Add to this, " that several parts of the lode, which were richer than others, " have been very indiscreetly hulked and worked within four " feet of the sea; whereby, in violent stormy weather, the " noise overhead has been so tremendous, that the workmen " have many times deserted their labour under the greatest

We now directed our course to the most distant object of curiosity in Cornwall, the LAND'S END, the vast rocky promontory that first opposes the Atlantic Ocean on the west of England, and says to its proud waves, "hitherto shalt thou come, and no "further." The road pursues a tolerably direct line, through a conntry where industry maintains a successful struggle with barrenness; catching occasional views of neighbouring hills, crowned with

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"fear, lest the sea might break in upon them. This proxi-
"mity of the sea over the workmen, without their being
"incommoded by the salt water, is more wonderful than
"the account which Dr. Stukley gives of his deseending
"into a coal-pit at Whitehaven one hundred and fifty
"fathoms deep, till he came under the very bed of the ocean,
"where ships were sailing over his head; being at that time
"deeper under-ground by the perpendicular, than any part
"of the ocean between England and Ireland. In his case,
"there is a vast thickness of strata between the mine and
"the sea; but at Huel-Cock they have only a crust be-
"tween, at most; and though in one place they have barely
"four feet of stratum to preserve them from the raging sea,
"yet they have rarely more than a little dribble of salt
"water, which they occasionally stop with oakum or clay,
"inserted in the crannies through which it issues. In a
"lead mine in Perran Zabuloe, formerly wrought under
"the sea, they were sometimes sensible of a capillary stream
"of salt water, which they likewise prevented by the same
"means, whenever they perceived it."

cairns, or girt with Saxon or Danish entrenchments. Of the latter there are no less than eight within the distance of five miles round the town of Penzance; each seen from the other, so as to preserve a constant communication by signals; and forming together a sufficient record of the domination of these terrible enemies over the conquered Cornish, but at the same time bearing testimony to the valour of the subdued, who required such numerous and powerful checks to render them subservient to the yoke. Indeed it was not without the most desperate contests that the Cornish surrendered their liberties to the invaders, who at different times overran their country; and the road we were now taking afforded more than one spot which had been the scene of their patriotic struggles for the undisturbed enjoyment of the rights of freemen. It was near the Land's End that they made their final stand in the reign of Athelstan, and were overthrown by that prince in a terrible battle, the theatre of which is still preserved in the name of Bolleit, (a place of slaughter,) the court-house of a hundred a little to the southward of the road to the Land's End. A very different character happily marked the country as we now passed through it: all was stillness and peace: the fields were whitening to the harvest; and the few people employed in them were pur-

suing their avocations in undisturbed industry. We could not help observing, however, that of these few by far the larger proportion were women, to whom in these parts the agricultural work seems to be chiefly committed. Nor did we fail to remark, that notwithstanding the nature of the employment, the female sex exhibited more of that softness and roundness of external form which characterize it throughout the world, than can be discovered in the lower classes of women in more inland parts of the kingdom. We had, indeed, been frequently struck by the beauty and freshness of the Cornish fair before, but their figure seemed to improve as we approached the western boundaries of their county. A peculiar smoothness in the texture of their skin, its delicacy and healthy colour, were too obvious not to attract our attention; nor could we at all account for such appearances in women exposed to the external air so much, and condemned to such homely fare as this hardy race are, till we understood from an intelligent friend that they arose from the oily nature of their common diet, which consists chiefly of pilchards. He confirmed his remark by assuring us, that he had seen the same effects produced by the same mode of living in different parts of the world; and that on the peninsula of India in particular they were strikingly

observable in the people who inhabited the sea coast of Malabar, where a similar fish diet occasioned the like plumpness of form, and delicacy of the external cuticle. Rank as the pilchard may be esteemed by those who are unaccustomed to eat it, yet throughout Cornwall it is considered as the greatest delicacy; and happy is it that taste goes hand in hand with necessity in this instance, for I know not what would become of the lower classes of the people here, if they turned with disgust from an article which constitutes their chief support. It is gratifying to observe how they enjoy the only dish on which they can depend with any certainty for a sufficient meal; and though the fastidious epicure might shrink back with some abhorrence from a Cornish peasant's table, which rarely exhibits more than a dish of pilchards chopt up with raw onions and salt, diluted with cold water, eaten with the fingers, and accompanied with barley or oaten cakes; yet I confess we never contemplated these honest people round their board, blest with a good appetite, and contented with what they had, without catching the infection of hunger, and being willing to partake of their humble fare. As the pilchard forms the most important article of the food of the Cornish lower classes, and as it is a migratory fish, continuing on the coast only

for a few summer months, it is an object with the cottagers to secure, during this season, a sufficient quantity of pilchards for their winter consumption, when they are absent from the coast. For this purpose, each cottager (on an average) lays by about 1000 fish, which are salted, and either packed together, or hung up separately. The quantity of salt necessary for this process is about seven pounds to the hundred fish, which, till the late rise on the duty of that article, might be procured at three-half-pence per pound; and the whole stock cured at an expence of 8*s*. 9*d*. But *tempora mutantur*; salt is now increased to 4*d*. per pound, and 1000 fish cannot be cured under 1*l*. 3*s*. 4*d*. a sum of terrifying, if not of unattainable magnitude to a man who only gets six or at the most seven shillings for his weekly labour, which is the usual rate of wages for a peasant about the Land's End. Perhaps the ingenuity or malignity of man never suggested an impost so oppressive to the lower classes, particularly of the county we are at present interested in, as this unnatural addition to the duty upon one of the most necessary articles of life. Indeed we found the peasantry and fishermen sufficiently sensible of the burthen, and we blessed GOD, that we were not the financiers who had invented an imposition that excited those

murmurs, not loud but deep, which met our ear, on this account, wherever we went.

The nakedness of the country, completely bare of wood, and the stone fences which bounded the road on either side, evinced our near approach to the western extremity of the kingdom. That we might not miss the object of our ride, the celebrated promontory of Bolereum, W— shouted to some people who were working in a barn, for directions. In a moment a female labourer appeared at the door, and civilly enquired what we would have. She appeared to be a healthy damsel of twenty, with a form and face not easily to be matched for symmety and beauty by girls of the highest and most favoured classes. " Can you procure us a guide to " the Land's End?" said W—. ' Yes, sir; my ' *husband* will conduct you there.' " What, you " are married then? Have you any children?" ' Yes, Sir,' replied the fair one, ' *eight;*' and ſkipping over the gate with the nimbleness of a deer, was in an instant out of sight. She returned with the same expedition, followed by her spouse, a fisherman; and I think I never saw a human figure that gave me such an idea of a being completely unincumbered by the fetters of flesh. He appeared to be all sinew; scarcely touched the ground as he walked, was agile as a greyhound, and elastic as a ball-

spring. We congratulated ourselves that we were equestrians; for it would have been impossible for us to have kept pace with this *meteor* of a man, had we accompanied him on foot. Under the direction of such a guide we were not long in reaching SENNAR-CHURCH TOWN, which lay at the distance of a mile from the place where we picked him up. This little group of houses, which, though dignified with the name of a town, is only a small hamlet, affords an excellent inn, where the traveller usually leaves his horse or carriage. Its situation is sufficiently described by the inscriptions on its sign; that on the east being "the last house in England," and on the west, "the first house in England." We found it fitted up with every convenience; and affording every accommodation to render it a good head-quarters for those who may be induced by the curiosities of the district to spend a few days amongst them. The distance from hence to the Land's End is about a mile; partly over an open common, sprinkled with a few bushes, and staring masses of stone, the spontaneous production of the soil; and commanding an uninterrupted view of the Atlantic ocean. The ruggedness of the coast that presented itself to the right, prepared us for the tremendous rocky scene which lay beneath our eye when we reached the point that terminates England

to the west. We had travelled many weary miles to gain this most distant object of our journey, but we confessed that its novel and wonderful character amply repaid us for all our trouble. It would be difficult, indeed, for fancy to sketch a more sublime picture of rocky scenery than that which we now contemplated. The promontory, thrusting itself forward into the Atlantic in a wedge-like form, towers above its roaring waves in abrupt majesty, to the height of 250 feet; defended against the inconceivable fury of the vast mass of waters that break upon it, by its immoveable ribs of granite which rise on every side in every form. The dark colour of the rocks, the singularity of their shapes, the wildness of their groups, and the absolute perpendicularity of their descent, combined with the eternal roar of the waves below, and the incessant whistling of the wind above, excited in the mind an emotion of terrific admiration that we had never before experienced. It seemed almost to unsettle the understanding; and gave us some idea of the nature of that feeling of desperation said by Macaulay to be produced on the imagination of strangers on visiting the immense south-western promontory of St. Kilda, who are so overpowered with the awfulness of a precipice of 3000 feet in depth, that they would rush mechanically to its brink, were they not pre-

vented by the two guides who accompany each traveller to this object of terrible curiosity. We trusted ourselves on the extreme rock of the Land's End only a sufficient time to catch a view of the unbounded scene which it unfolds. An iron coast formed the skreen to the right, closed by a projecting rocky promontory, called Cape Cornwall, sheltering from the north-easterly blast the capacious basin of Whitesand Bay. Another abrupt eminence shooting itself into the ocean, called Peden-maen-due Point, attracted our attention in the same direction, beset with frowning rocks that interdicted all approach to it by sea. Afar off in front we discerned, or *imagined* we discerned, (for fancy, you know, is at times an excellent help-mate to inclination,) the celebrated Cassiterides, or Scilly Isles; and more immediately before us was the *long ships*, a range of of rocks, the terrible scene of many a disastrous wreck. To the left another horrid mass of granite called the *armed knight*, whitened by breakers, heightened the idea of dangers to which mariners are exposed in these tempestuous seas. Beyond this all was ocean. The frequency of shipwreck on this dangerous projecting coast, is too well known; and many a tale of horror, fresh in the memory of the older inhabitants of the spot, evinced the necessity of taking some measures for guarding against the

evil. Accordingly, about fourteen years since, a light-house was constructed for the purpose, on the central rock of the *long ships*; and so well has it answered the end of its erection, that since its construction only one vessel has perished upon the ledge; an accident that happened from the master of it missing his reckoning, and mistaking the *long-ships* for the Edystone. Three men belong to the establishment; two of whom inhabit it; the third is stationed at St. Just, to relieve one of the two every month; so that by this alternation every one of them has, in his turn, a continued residence of two months on the long-ship rocks. It frequently happens, however, that this alternate relief is interrupted; and a much longer time elapses without any intercourse with the main land, than the customary time of change. In bad weather four months have passed, and no other communication been kept up between the light-house and St. Just, than that of signals. To a residence under these circumstances, in a very temple of the winds, rocked by the thunders and the blast, and oftentimes buried in the waves, which climb its side, and discharge their billows on its head, there are men willing to condemn themselves, for the poor pittance of 30*l.* per annum, and King's provisions. They have here, however, one opportunity of acquiring a good habit, or as

is too generally the case, of breaking through a bad one, which a residence on the shore would not afford them; for by an excellent regulation, rigidly enforced, to prevent fire or negligence, no liquor stronger than water, is allowed to be introduced into the building. A distressing circumstance is related to have taken place last year at *long-ships* light-house. In calm weather the tenants of it are enabled to diversify their meal, by catching fish from the rock on which they dwell. One of the inmates had been successful in his sport, and whilst the other was busied in the building, had retired to the point of a precipice to clean his prey. His companion waited for his return till the hour of dinner, and then, surprised at his delay, went out to seek him. He called loudly and repeatedly on his name, but no answer was returned. He looked round the rock, but no human form was visible. Going at length to the fatal point, he cast his eye into the chasm, and beheld his friend stretched out a mutilated corpse upon the ragged crags below. It would not be easy to conceive the feelings of the survivor on such a sight. Indeed it was a situation that embraced many peculiar circumstances of distress; a catastrophe, the shock of which must have been indescribably heightened by the conviction of the total and horrible solitude, to which the companion

of the deceased found himself so unexpectedly reduced. As soon as he was sufficiently recollected to give notice of the event, he hoisted a signal, and received assistance from St. Just.

Although a sweep of ocean, twenty-seven miles in breadth, separate at present the Land's End from the Scilly Islands, there can yet be little doubt of their having been heretofore united to each other by the main land. The records of history, indeed, do not rise so high as the æra when this disjunction was first effected; but we have documents yet remaining which prove to us that this strait must have been considerably widened, and the number of the Scilly Islands greatly increased, within the last sixteen or seventeen centuries, by the waters of the Atlantic (receding probably from the coast of America) pressing towards this coast of Britain, accumulating upon Bolerium, and overwhelming part of the western shores of Cornwall.

Strabo expressly tells us that the Cassiterides, (so called from the Greek name of *tin*, there produced) were in his time only ten in number, whereas now they are divided into a hundred and forty rocky islets.* Solinus also makes mention of a large and

* Αι δε κασσιτερίδες δεκα μεν εισι, κειντα δ' εγγυς αλληλων. iii. 265.

respectable island, called *Silura*, evidently the Scilly of present times, lying on the Damnonian or Cornish coast, and separated from the main land by a strait turbulent and dangerous, a character which sufficiently marks the compression of its waters.* And William of Worcester, an author of our own country, thirteen centuries after Solinus, states with a degree of positive exactness, stamping authenticity upon his recital, that between Mount's Bay and the Scilly Islands there had been woods, and meadows, and arable lands, and 140 parish churches, which before

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* He gives this account of the island and its inhabitants: "Siluram quoque insulam ab ora quam gens Britanna Dumnonii tenent, turbidum fretum distinguit, cujus homines etiamnum custodiunt morem vetustum; nummum refutant; dant res et accipiunt; mutationibus necessaria potius quàm pretiis parant: deos percolunt; scientiam futurorum pariter viri ac fœminæ ostendunt."—*Sol. Poly. Hist.* cap. xxii. c. It may be urged that Solinus only speaks of *one* island, whereas Strabo mentions ten. But this may be considered as a κατ' ἐξοχην expression; putting the most considerable for the whole; an opinion which is strengthened by a marginal reading in an ancient manuscript, mentioned by Salmasius, that has *Sillinas quoque insulas*, for *Siluram quoque insulam*.—Vide *Salmas. Plinian. Exercitat.* tom. i. p. 245.

his time were submerged by the ocean.* Uninterrupted tradition since this period, which subsists to the present day, vigorous and particular, authenticates his account, and leaves no doubt upon the mind, that a vast tract of land which stretched anciently from the eastern shore of Mount's Bay to the north-western rock of Scilly, (with the exception of the narrow strait flowing between the Long-ships and Land's End,) has, since the age of Strabo and Solinus, and previous to that of William of Worcester, been overwhelmed and usurped by the waves of the sea.† Robbed of their population and riches by this dreadful inundation, which seems to have happened in the tenth century, exposed afterwards to the depredations of mariners of all countries, who, when navigation became more universal, plundered these defenceless isles at their will, they dwindled

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* "Fuerunt tam boscus quam prata, et terra arabilis inter "dictum Montem et Insulas Syllæ, et fuerunt 140 ecclesiæ "parochiales inter istum Montem. et Sylly submersæ."—*Worcester*, 102.

† The depth of the water at the Land's End is about 11 fathoms; at the Long ships 8; to the north of them 20; to the south 30; and 25, 20, and 15 fathoms between them and the north-west of Scilly. The shallowest water occurs in the mid space between Cornwall and the isles.

into such insignificance, that in the reign of Elizabeth a grant was made of the whole of them, to a Cornish gentleman, for a quit-rent of 10*l.* per annum. With him, however, their consideration again revived. He carried a colony of English to his islands, and secured them from molestation by building two forts, one on Trescaw, and another on St. Mary's. Since this time they have been gradually increasing in opulence and population. They have some trade; three resident clergymen amongst them; and maintain a communication with the main land constantly, except when interrupted by very bad weather, by means of a packet-boat, supported by the General Post-Office, which carries thither letters and passengers every week from Penzance.

But to return from our insular researches to nearer objects, and modern adventures. I have already observed, that the promontory of the Land's End thrusts itself into the waves in a wedge-like form, gradually tapering towards a point, till it meets the waves. About two hundred yards before it terminates, a sudden depression takes place in its surface, which continues falling with a pretty rapid descent for some distance. The southern side of this portion of the promontory is absolutely perpendicular; its base covered with masses of rock, which at high tides and in stormy weather are mingled with the

the surf. Its greatest width does not exceed 50 yards; and its elevation above the water cannot be less than 250 feet. Common prudence would seem to interdict an approach to the point over such a dangerous passage as this, by any other mode than that of walking. There are heroes, however, who soar above all the suggestions of this sage adviser in their pursuit of fame, and scorn the road of glory trodden by the vulgar foot. Empedocles plunged into the centre of Mount Ætna, that he might acquire the reputation of being immortal;

- - - - - - - " Deus immortalis haberi
" Dum putat Empedocles, ardentem frigidus Ætnam,
" Insiluit :"

and Herostratus fired the Temple of Ephesus, to obtain a name that should last for ever. The same rash ambition seems to have influenced a traveller who visited the Land's End during the course of the last year; and though no fatal effects were the consequences of his imprudence, yet its result was such as I hope will caution every future visiter of the place against any similar display of false courage. He was mounted on a valuable spirited horse, and had proceeded to the declivity just mentioned, though the animal before he reached it had evinced every mark of astonishment at the novelty of the scene

before him. Here the guide requested him to dismount, but in vain; the *glory* of the *achievement* of reaching the last rock on horseback preponderated over every representation of danger, and on he rode. With some difficulty he prevailed on his horse to carry him to the point; but the mingled roar of the wind and waves, and the horrid forms of the rocks, which lift their craggy heads on all sides, so terrified the beast that he became unmanageable. He snorted, plunged, reared, and exhibited every symptom of ungovernable fear. The gentleman, convinced too late of his rashness and folly, turned him to the main land, and spurred him forwards. Insensible, however, to every thing but the impression of dread, the animal curvetted to the brink of the precipice. The fate of the rider hung upon a moment. He threw himself with desperation on the ground from the back of his horse, which the next instant plunged down the precipice, and was dashed to atoms. The guides afterwards recovered the bridle and saddle by descending on the northern side of the point, and passing through a perforation at the bottom, to the rocks on which the animal had fallen. The only particulars we could learn of his rider, were, that he was taken up more dead than alive, with terror, and that his nervous system had been

so shaken by the adventure, as still to remain in the most shattered state.

Before I quit the Land's End it may be amusing to mention a particular of its natural history, which I think throws some light on the much-disputed subject of the *migration* of English birds. You are aware, perhaps, that a controversy has long subsisted between ornithologists, whether those birds which are seen amongst us at particular seasons, remain in the kingdom concealed in undiscoverable recesses, during the period of their disappearance, or whether they are actually absent from our climate at this time, and resident in countries more congenial to their nature and instincts. In this list of migratory birds, (as they are called,) the Woodcock, that important article of luxury and sport, is enumerated. Mr. Daines Barrington, amongst others, is a strenuous opponent to the doctrine of this species of bird making a periodical passage from England to other countries; contending that it builds its nests, and breeds amongst us, in the same manner as other indigenous British birds; and is invisible during the summer, only, from the caution of its habits, and privacy of its retreats, in that season. He further makes the assertion, with respect to migratory birds in general, that there is no well-attested instance of such a migration actually taking place, which he

considers as a convincing negative proof of the falsehood of that opinion. What the value of those examples of migration may be, which are adduced by Willoughby, Buffon, Adanson, &c. I know not, as I have never paid any attention to the controversy; but I will venture to assert, that had Mr. Daines Barrington made the question with respect to woodcocks a subject of his enquiry when he was in Cornwall, he would have learned a fact at the Land's End, which must have at once settled his scepticism on this particular head. He would here have been told by every peasant and fisherman, that the annual periodical arrival of the woodcocks from the Atlantic, at the close of the year, is as naturally expected, and as surely takes place, as the return of winter after the autumn; and that the time of their visit is directed by so certain an instinct, that the inhabitants can tell by the temperature of the air, the week, if not the day, on which they will arrive. He would have been convinced that migration is the general habit of the *species*, and not the wayward act of an individual bird, by the prodigious flocks of them which reach the shore at the same time; and no doubt would have remained on his mind of their coming from *afar*, when he had been told that after their arrival, they might for a day or two be easily knocked down, or caught by

dogs, from the extreme exhaustion induced by their flight. A short respite, indeed, amongst the bushes and stones of the Land's End again invigorates and enables them to take an inland course; but till they are thus recruited, they are an easy prey, and produce no mean profit to those who live in the neighbourhood of this place of their first landing in England. We were told at Truro, as a proof of the definite time of their arrival, that a gentleman there had sent to the Land's End for several brace to be forwarded to him, for a particular occasion. His correspondent acquainted him in answer that no woodcocks had yet arrived, but that on the third day from his writing, if the weather continued as it then was, there would be plenty. The state of the atmosphere remained unchanged, the visiters came as it was asserted they would, and the gentleman received the number of birds he had ordered. From all these circumstances we concluded that woodcocks were actually migratory birds; that they retire from England when the temperature of our climate becomes too warm for them, take their flight to more northerly regions, and return to our coast as soon as the cold of those higher latitudes renders it unpleasant or unsafe for them to remain in them.

The celebrated Logan Stone at the Land's End lies about four miles to the southward of the pro-

montory, over a wild and rocky cliff, presenting nothing to the eye but its rough surface, an unbounded view of the ocean, and some fearful rocks sprinkled through its nearer extent. Amongst these the most remarkable, and most tremendous, if we judge from its name, is the Wolf. Of late years an attempt was made to divest it of some of its horrors, by erecting upon its summit a huge copper figure of a wolf; which, being so constructed as to produce a stupendous noise by the current of wind rushing through it, and being hung with bells to be agitated and rung by the blast, should give notice to mariners in darkness or hazy weather of their approach to this dangerous rock. The philanthropic design, however, proved to be abortive from the violence of the tides and other circumstances, and after much expence, labour, and danger, encountered by the proprietor and workmen, was at length relinquished. The Logan Stone is well described by Dr. Borlase; for what it was in his time it still continues to be. It is a feature of Nature's architecture, and defies all vicissitudes. "In the parish of St. Levin, Cornwall," says he, "there is a promontory called Castle Treryn. This "cape consists of three distinct groups of rocks. "On the western side of the middle group, near "the top, lies a very large stone, so evenly poised

" that any hand may move it to and fro; but the " extremities of its base are at such a distance from " each other, and so well secured by their nearness " to the stone which it stretches itself upon, that it " is morally impossible that any lever, or indeed " any force, (however applied in a mechanical way,) " can remove it from its present situation. It is " called the *Logan Stone*;* and at such a great " height from the ground, that no one who sees it, " can conceive that it has been lifted into the place " where we see it in. It is also much of the same " shape as the rocks which lie under it, and makes " a natural part of the crag on which it stands at " present, and to which it seems always to have " belonged."† No doubt is entertained that this

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* " *Logan*, in the Guidhelian British, signifies a pit or " hollow of the hand; and *Leagan* a high rock, and thence " I should think it most reasonable to derive it, although " the Welsh word *Kloguin*, a great stone or rock, (see " Lluyd in Saxum,) comes very near it: but whether the " word *Logan* be thence derived, or may possibly be a cor- " ruption of the British *Llygadtyn*, in Welch signifying " bewitching, (forasmuch as the singular property of this " stone may seem the effect of witchcraft) I shall not take " upon me to decide."—*Borlase.*

† Borlase's History, 180.

and other natural wonders of a similar description, were applied by the Druids to superstitious purposes; probably to increase their influence over the ignorant, or extract money from the rich. Toland considers them, with much probability, as instruments of priestcraft, the Druids keeping the secret of their easy mobility to themselves, and making the people believe that the priest alone could remove them, and that by a miracle; "by which "pretended miracle, (says he,) they acquitted or "condemned the accused, and often brought criminals to confess, what could in no other way be "extorted from them." It is to this cunning application of them that Mason so nobly alludes in his Caractacus, a poem in which he has made the most judicious as well as beautiful use of the imagery afforded him by the superstitions of Druidism.

- - - - - - - - - - "Thither, youths,
"Turn your astonish'd eyes; behold yon huge
"And unhewn sphere of living adamant,
"Which, pois'd by magic, rests its central weight,
"On yonder pointed rock: firm as it seems,
"Such is its strange and virtuous property,
"It moves obsequious to the gentlest touch
"Of him whose breast is pure; but to a traitor,
"Though ev'n a giant's prowess nerv'd his arm,
"It stands as fix'd as Snowdon."

The lofty tower of St. Burian's is a sufficient direction to this ancient village. Its church dedicated to St. Buriana, "an holy woman of Ireland," was built by Athelstan, in gratitude for that success which crowned his expedition to Scilly, and which he had implored in his way thither at the oratory of this female saint, that stood upon the same spot of ground on which he afterwards erected the church. It is a fabrick of great curiosity, having from the remoteness of its situation been little exposed to alteration, and may therefore be considered in all its essentials as in much the same state as when compleated by Athelstan. Many memorials of distant times and former usages occur both within and without it; an ancient shallow coffin like a tomb, that once contained the remains of Clarice wife of Geoffrey de Bolleit, lord of this manor, in the time of Henry III.; a series of old *forms*, for the accommodation of the worshippers, which our ancestors were content to use in common, before refinement had introduced the invidious distinction of pews; and two stone crosses, either of the Danish or Anglo-Saxon age. In addition to the other curiosities of St. Burien's church, we may mention the stalls of the dean and three prebendaries, (originally settled here by Athelstan,)

" Of monumental oak, and antique mould,
" That long have stood the rage of conquering years
" Inviolate;"

and probably preserve the same materials and carvings which they exhibited in the days of the royal founder. This collegiate establishment still subsists, though in the shape of a wretched skeleton, divested of flesh and blood. For two of the prebends being absorbed into the deanery, and the third attached to the bishopric of Exeter, the parish is defrauded of all its rightful spiritual residents, whose duties are now performed by a stipendiary curate. So effectually have the pious intentions of Athelstan been enforced and perpetuated by his successors!

From St. Burian to Penzance, including the two fishing-towns of Mousehole and Newlyn, is about eight miles; a distance enlivened, for the most part, by a grand view of Mount's Bay, along whose western shore the road is carried. The inhabitants of the former town, both men and women, exhibit the finest specimens of Cornish strength and beauty. The broad and muscular outline of the male, and the luxuriant *contour* of the female form, here, evince that the climate, food, or employment of the people, (or perhaps all together,) are highly conducive to the maturation and perfection of the human figure.

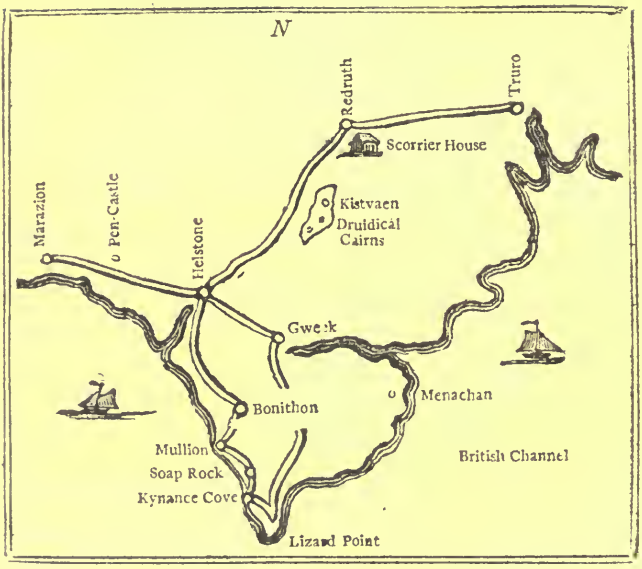
Having taken another and a final survey of Penzance, we crossed the sands to Marazion, being first prepared with directions not to venture too far down upon them; which we might have otherwise been tempted to do, as the tide was very low, and presented a wide expanse of level surface to the eye, smooth as glass, and apparently compact and firm as a rock. We understood, however, that there was treachery concealed under this fair and specious appearance; that the sands were in some places, and at uncertain times, quick or loose, without adhesion or consolidation, and swallowed up whatever pressed upon them. A melancholy confirmation of the truth of this representation had occurred only two or three years ago. Two foreigners (I believe Frenchmen) had engaged a guide to conduct them over these deceitful sands on foot. The man preceded them with a pole, in order to try the solidity and consistence of the sand before they trod upon it, for the *quicks* (as they are called) are so continually shifting their situation, as to defy all the results of experience to settle their locality. The poor fellow proceeded with his usual caution, but not with his accustomed good fortune; for while he was stooping forward with his pole to determine the safety of his course, the sands

suddenly sunk under his feet, and in one moment swallowed him up before the eyes of his astonished and terrified companions.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

R. W.



LETTER VI.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR SIR, *Truro, Aug.* 17.

IT is not surprizing, that an object so remarkable in form, so conspicuous in situation, and so venerable for the superstitions which had attached to it for ages, as ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT, should have attracted the attention of the poet, and afforded some materials for the combinations of fancy. We

accordingly find both Spenser and Milton noticing this singular rock. The former, indeed, confines his use of St. Michael's Mount to little more than a slight mention of its consecration to a saint.

" In evill howre thou hentst in hond
" Thus holy hils to blame :
" For sacred unto saints they stand,
" And of them have their name.
" St. Michael's Mount who does not know,
" That wardes the western coast?"

Milton, however, has converted it to a more noble purpose, and by a beautiful allusion to its legendary history, made it the basis of one of the finest passages in his Lycidas.

" Or, whether to our moist vows denied
" Sleep'st by the fable of Bellerus old,
" Where the great vision of the guarded mount
" Looks tow'rd Namancos and Bayona's hold,
" Look homeward, angel, now, and melt with ruth,
" And, O ye dolphins, waft the hapless youth."*

* I cannot resist inserting the late Mr. Warton's admirable explication of the above passage, which may be justly considered as one of the finest specimens of illustrative criticism extant. " The whole of this passage," says he, " has " never yet been explained or understood. That part of the " coast of Cornwall called the Land's End, with its neigh-

As we approached St. Michael's Mount along the sands, we could not but acknowledge an influence upon our imagination that made us pardon the

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" bourhood, is here intended, in which is the promontory " of Bellerium, so named from Bellerus a Cornish giant. " And we are told by Camden, that this is the only part of " our island that looks directly towards Spain. So also " Drayton, Polyolb. S. xxiii. vol. iii. p. 1107.

" Then Cornwall creepeth out into the westerne maine,
" As, lying in her eye, she pointed still at Spaine.

" And Orosius, ' The second angle or point of Spain forms " ' a cape, where Brigantia, a city of Galicia, rears a most " ' lofty watch-tower, of admirable construction, in full view " ' of Britain.' Hist. L. i. c. ii. fol. 5. a. edit. Paris. 1524. " fol. Carew says of this situation, ' Saint Michael's Mount " ' looketh so aloft, that it brooketh no concurrent.' p. 154. " ut infor. But what is the meaning of ' the Great Vision " ' of the Guarded Mount?' And of the line immediately " following, ' Look homeward, angel, now, and melt with " ' ruth?' I flatter myself I have discovered Milton's original " and leading idea.—Not far from the Land's End in Corn- " wall, is a most romantic projection of rock, called Saint " Michael's Mount, into a harbour called Mount's Bay. It " gradually rises from a broad basis into a very steep and nar- " row, but craggy, elevation. Towards the sea, the declivity " is almost perpendicular. At low-water it is accessible by " land: and not many years ago it was entirely joined with " the present shore, between which and the Mount there is a

errors of ignorance in peopling it with wizard forms, and involving its early history in witchery and wonder. Peculiar as it is in figure and situation, it must

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" rock called Chapel-Rock. Tradition, or rather superstition, " reports, that it was anciently connected by a large tract of " land, full of churches, with the isles of Scilly. On the " summit of St. Michael's Mount a monastery was founded " before the time of Edward the Confessor, now a seat of Sir " John Saint Aubyn. The church, refectory, and many of " the apartments still remain. With this monastery was " incorporated a strong fortress, regularly garrisoned: and in " a patent of Henry IV. dated 1403, the monastery itself, " which was ordered to be repaired, is styled Fortalitium. " Rym. Fœd. viii. 102, 340, 341. A stone lantern, in one of " the angles of the tower of the church, is called St. Michael's " Chair. But this is not the original St. Michael's Chair. " We are told by Carew, in his Survey of Cornwall, ' A little " ' without the castle [this fortress] there is a bad [dangerous] " ' seat in a craggy place, called St. Michael's Chaire, some- " ' what daungerous for accesse, and therefore holy for the " ' adventure.' Edit. 1602. p. 154. We learn from Caxton's " Golden Legende, under the history of the Angel Michael, " that ' Th' apparacyon of this angell is manyfold. The fyrst " ' is when he appeared in mount of Gargan, &c.' Edit. 1493. " fol. cclxxxii. a. William of Worcestre, who wrote his " travels over England about 1490, says, in describing St. " Michael's Mount, there was an ' Apparicio Sancti Michaelis " ' in monte Tumba antea vocato *Le Hore Rok in the wodd.*' " Itinerar. edit. Cantab. 1778. p. 102. The *Hoar Rock in*

have made a striking impression on the warm fancies of untutored men, and naturally claimed from them a reverential and mysterious awe. We did not

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" *the Wood* is this Mount or *Rock* of St. Michael, anciently " covered with thick wood, as we learn from Drayton and " Carew. There is still a tradition, that a vision of St. " Michael seated on this crag, or St. Michael's *Chair*, ap- " peared to some hermits: and that this circumstance occa- " sioned the foundation of the monastery dedicated to St. " Michael. And hence this place was long renowned for its " sanctity, and the object of frequent pilgrimages. Carew " quotes some old rhymes much to our purpose, p. 154. " ut supr.

" Who knows not Mighel's Mount and chaire,
" The pilgrim's holy vaunt?

" Nor should it be forgot, that this monastery was a cell to " another on a St. Michael's Mount in Normandy, where was " also a vision of St. Michael.——But to apply what has been " said to Milton. This Great Vision is the famous Appari- " tion of St. Michael, whom he with much sublimity of " imagination supposes to be still throned on this lofty crag " of St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall, looking towards the " Spanish coast. The Guarded Mount on which this Great " Vision appeared, is simply the *fortified* mount, implying the " fortress above-mentioned. And let us observe, that *Mount* " is the peculiar appropriated appellation of this promontory. " So in Daniel's Panegyricke on the King, st. 19. 'From " 'Dover to the Mount.' With the sense and meaning of " the line in question, is immediately connected that of the

doubt that it had been the scene of barbarous worship from the æra of the first peopling of Britain; and, long before it exhibited the follies

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" third line next following, which here I now for the first " time exhibit properly pointed:

" Look homeward, angel, now, and melt with ruth.

" Here is an apostrophe to the Angel Michael, whom we have " just seen seated on the Guarded Mount. ' O angel, look " ' no longer *seaward* to Namancos and Bayona's hold: rather " ' turn your eyes to another object. Look *homeward* or " ' *landward*, look towards your *own coast now*, and view " ' with pity the corpse of the shipwrecked Lycidas floating " ' thither.' But I will exhibit the three lines together " which form the context. Lycidas was lost on the seas " near the coast,

" Where the great vision of the guarded mount
" Looks tow'rds Namancos and Bayona's hold;
" Look homeward, angel, now, and melt with ruth.

" The Great Vision and the Angel are the same thing: and " the verb *look* in both the two last verses has the same refe- " rence. The poet could not mean to shift the *aplication* of " *look*, within two lines. Moreover, if in the words *Look* " *homeward angel now*—the address is to Lycidas, a violent, " and too sudden, an apostrophe takes place; for in the very " next line Lycidas is distinctly called *the hapless youth*. To " say nothing, that this new *angel* is a *hapless* youth, and to " be *wafted by dolphins*. Thyer seems to suppose, that the " meaning of the last line is, ' You, O Lycidas, now an " ' angel, *look down* from heaven, &c.' But how can this be

of Papal superstition, had served the purposes of a a Canaanitish high place, and echoed to the terrible rites of Druidism. Before, however, we could visit

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" said to *look homeward?* And why is the shipwrecked per-
" son to *melt with ruth?* That meaning is certainly much
" helped by placing a full point after *surmise*, v. 153. But a
" semicolon there, as we have seen, is the point to the first
" edition: and to shew how greatly such a punctuation
" ascertains or illustrates our present interpretation, I will
" take the paragraph a few lines higher, with a short analy-
" sis. ' Let every flower be strewed on the hearse where
" ' Lycidas lies, so to flatter ourselves for a moment with a
" ' notion that his corpse is present; and this, (ah me!) while
" ' the seas are wafting it here and there, whether beyond the
" ' Hebrides, or near the shores of Cornwall, &c.' "

At the time I was writing this part of the present little work, the miscellaneous History of Cornwall, published by Mr. Polwhele, accidentally fell into my hands. It is enriched by a copious supplement from the pen of " the Historian of Manchester," including remarks on St. Michael's Mount, Penzance, the Land's End, and the Scilly Isles. In the course of these remarks Mr. Whitaker considers the passage above quoted from Milton's Lycidas, and, with very little regard to courtesy, accuses our great poet of ignorance, deficiency of learning, want of antiquarian and geographical knowledge, and confusion of ideas with respect to the subject in question. The charge, I confess, excited my indignation; and I had prepared for vindication, when I saw by the Papers, that Mr. Whitaker was removed into that state, where the interest of

this venerable object, we had to examine a more modern one; the town of MARAZION, which stands

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all human controversies, as well as the ability of maintaining them, must for ever cease. Instead therefore of disturbing the ashes of the departed, I would rather pay that tribute of gratitude which is so justly due to the memory of a man whose writings afford the information and entertainment which Mr. Whitaker's confessedly do. His talents were of the first rate, though he occasionally dishonoured *them*, and diminished his *respectability*, by writing for *such* a Review as the Anti-Jacobin. The stream of his learning was wide, profound, and clear;—though tinctured occasionally with an acrimonious impregnation, which rendered it less palatable than it otherwise would have been. His style is manly, nervous, and frequently splendid; his accuracy great; and his industry unrivalled. He has enriched our history with new facts, cleared our antiquities from many obscurities, and unravelled numerous perplexities that hung around the records of ancient times. I may say, in short, that we should read his various productions with uninterrupted satisfaction, as well as with increasing information, had he not *sometimes* unfortunately forgotten, that the realm of letters, though a republic, should always be characterized by *courtesy*; that Athens was the centre of *politeness* as well as *learning*; and that the olive-tree, the emblem of *peace*, was the favourite plant of the Goddess of *Wisdom*. "Olea "Minervæ symbolum est, cui hæc arbor artium habita præses; "quæ artes ad lucernam noctu lucubrando nimium quantum "crescunt in qua lucerna et oleum adhiberi solet."—*Aug. Ant. Dialog. in Antiq.*

on the shore, at the distance of half a mile from it. Not that this place is a child of yesterday, since its history may be traced as high as the twelfth century, when it seems to have originated in a market, granted to the religious house upon the mount, to be held on the Thursday of every week. This establishment would of course quickly produce some habitations on the spot, which, as soon as they were erected, were denominated *Marghas-gou*, a name signifying the *Thursday's market.* Its present appellation seems to be of later date, and imposed by the Jews, who afterwards settled on the spot, attached another town to the western part of the original one, and in allusion to the trade which they then monopolized, and carried on from this port, called it Marazion, or the Market of Zion. All traces of this lucrative commerce have been long extinguished here, and its only exports at present are, I believe, the pilchards, which are caught in astonishing quantities in the Bay. The town itself, like most of the others in Cornwall, is irregular and ill-built, but full of inhabitants. It was with concern we learnt that a population of between 2 and 3000 souls should have the public services of their religion performed to them only once in a fortnight, or three weeks! Can we wonder, my friend, at the increase of Sectarists, when no better attention is paid

to the interests of the Established Church? Or rather, ought we not to rejoice, that, if the *parent* be so negligent of its *children*, the *distant relatives* should fulfill the parental duties in its stead? Man is constitutionally a religious animal, his wants, his wishes, his infirmities, all occasionally direct his heart to Heaven; and if he be not brutalized by ignorance or sensuality, perverted by false philosophy, hardened by vice, or rendered delirious by fashion, he naturally delights in a communion with his Maker, through the medium of public worship. As a great mass of mankind are happily not included under either of the above descriptions, it follows, that there will be a considerable number of people in every extensive society, who must be anxious to perform a service which they consider as a duty, and feel to be a consolation; and who will therefore adopt an *irregular* mode of gratifying their propensity, if they be excluded from the *legitimate* one. Such is the case at Marazion; the Church, from the infrequency of the performance of service there, exhibits little better than bare walls when it is opened; whilst the Meeting-Houses, which invite people to worship twice every sabbath-day, are always overflowing.

I have mentioned above that the exports of Marazion are confined chiefly to pilchards. As this

place is one of the most celebrated fishing-towns of Cornwall, and as we here first saw the process of taking pilchards, it may, perhaps, be amusing to you, if I describe the method employed in fishing for them, as well as trouble you with a few particulars of their history, cure, and sale.

The pilchard and the herring so nearly resemble each other in appearance, that on the first view it is not quite easy to discriminate between them. There is, however, some difference in their forms, which may be detected by an attentive inspection. The accurate Mr. Pennant has remarked that the scales of the pilchard adhere more firmly to the skin of the fish than those of the herring, which are easily rubbed off if they be handled; and Dr. Maton observes, that the former is less compressed than the latter, as well as of a smaller size; and that its dorsal fin is placed so exactly in the center of gravity, as to make the fish preserve a perfect equilibrium if it be suspended by it. Did not all animated nature teem with marks of that wise design and consummate goodness, which have implanted various instincts and propensities in its different orders for the obtaining of the greatest measure of happiness of which they are capable, the history of the pilchard would naturally excite our admiration. Directed by the impulse of their beneficent Creator, they quit, at a

certain season, the frozen oceans of the Arctic Circle, and drive in immense shoals towards the warmer seas of the British coast; thus at the same time pursuing their food, and strengthening and preparing themselves and their young ones to return to their northern habitation, in order to spawn and secure themselves during the months when the Atlantic is agitated by storms. The period of their migration is the month of July, about the end of which they reach the Scilly Islands, and shortly afterwards appear upon the coast of Cornwall. Peculiar circumstances of the seasons, indeed, which affect the habits of animated nature, as well as the natural order of inanimate things, have been known to interrupt the instinctive migration of the pilchard; and in the years 1786 and 1787, not a single fish appeared upon the Cornish coast; but with the exception of these rare irregularities, their annual visit is as constant as the succession of day to night. Equally uniform is the time of their continuance upon the coast, which never extends beyond the latter end of December, when they regularly return again into the Arctic seas. Once indeed, about fifty years ago, they were known to remain till Christmas in the British Channel, an anomaly said to have arisen from the unusual mildness of the winter season in that year. The astonishing quantities of pilchards which thus

annually seek the Cornish seas, may be best conceived from the annual results of the fishery. By an average estimate made of the exports of these fish from the four ports of Fowey, Falmouth, Penzance, and St. Ives, from the years 1747 to 1756 inclusive, it appeared that the first town had shipped annually 1732 hogsheads; the second 14,631 and two-thirds of a hogshead; Penzance 12,149, and one-third; and St. Ives 1282; making in all 29,795 hogsheads; and this, exclusive of the immense home consumption, fish sold in the markets, and spread upon the land for manure. Great however as this product may appear to be, of late years it has been coniderably larger, for in the year 1796 above 28,000 hogsheads were taken in the neighbourhood of Fowey alone, and more than 65,000 hogsheads through the county.† At present, indeed, the career of the fishery is sadly checked, by the want of a foreign market, though it is evident that were there a sale for the article, it would be to the full as profitable as ever, since the fish were never known to be more numerous on the coast than now.* The natural historian of Cornwall has

† Of this quantity, Naples alone took 20,000 hogsheads.

* The greatest abundance of fish ever known, particularly pilchards, were caught last week in Mount's Bay.

thus briefly enumerated the advantages which attend the pilchard fishery: a summary that places its national and provincial importance in a striking point of view. It employs a great number of men on the sea, training them thereby to naval affairs; it employs men, women, and children on land, in salting, pressing, washing, and cleaning them; in making boats, nets, ropes, casks, and all the articles depending on their construction; the poor are fed by the offals of the captures, the land with the refuse of the fish; the merchant finds the gains of commission and honest commerce, the fisherman the gains of the fish.* As the season of the fishing continues only a few weeks, the people employed in it are seldom engaged by the proprietors of the nets for a longer term than three months; but as the advan-

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Upwards of 10,000 hogsheads of the latter were landed at St Ives, and sold at 10*d.* the cart-load for manure. Turbot only fetched from 1*d.* to2*d.* per pound, and the inferior fish were not worth catching.—*Bath Chron. Sept.* 2, 1801. The state of the pilchard trade may be judged of from this circumstance. The fair price for a hogshead of pilchards is about three guineas. They fetch at present from 15*s.* to 18*s.* per hogshead. The former of these prices was the market one at Port Isaac, on the North coast, in the years 1807-8.

* Borlase's Natural History of Cornwall, 272.

tages to them are great during this time, they are enabled by its profits, like the harvest men of the east country, to lay by a comfortable sum for the winter support of their families out of their autumnal gains. Indeed it is necessary for the proprietors to be as œconomical as possible in their arrangements, as the expences attending their speculations are very large. The *seine*, or great stop net, as it is called, 1320 feet long, and 84 deep, (the largest of their nets,) cannot be fitted out at Marazion under an expence of between 1100*l.* and 1200*l.*; to this must be added the cost of constant repair of many other smaller nets, boats, ropes, and tackle, all perishable articles; the building and support of extensive houses for salting the fish; and the wages of a countless host of men, women, and children, employed in that process. The business of this animated trade may be described in few words. As the season for the appearance of the pilchards approaches, particular people, at the wages of half-a-guinea a week, are stationed on commanding spots, to give notice of their arrival, a circumstance easily detected from the purple tinge which, as I have before mentioned, the shoals impart to the surface of the waters. These are called *huers*, from t' *hue* or shout by which they notify to the fishermen the approach of the fish. In an instant, on

hearing the wished-for sound, all is bustle. The seine-boat,* properly fitted out, is pushed off, and being directed to the spot, its net is let down to inclose the shoal. This it does, by forming a complete circle round them; when the two ends of the net are tied together. The whole is then rendered stationary by several anchors that are let out, and fixed to different parts of the seine. Within the wide extent which this enclosure embraces, a smaller net called the *tuck*, about 16 fathoms long, is introduced, capacious enough to contain 3 or 400 hogsheads, and having a bag at its bottom, from which the fish when once within it, cannot escape. The boats now approach, and being admitted into the seine through the two ends which had been tied together, they are loaded from the tuck net, the fish being dipped out with hand-buckets. In the mean time, the seine being thus gradually lightened, and the anchors taken up, it is dragged slowly and gently to shore, and on its arrival there, immediately prepared for a second capture. The fish being landed, and the home-market supplied, they are then

* Three boats, and about twenty men, usually attend every seine. Mount's Bay has five seines. St. Ives, we were told, had fitted out fifty; but the cost of the outfit of each is not not more than between 6 and 700*l.* at that place.

carried to the *cellars*, where the *bulkers*, who are chiefly women, take them in hand. The name which the Cornish people have given to their curing-houses, would convey to one who had never seen them, a very false idea of their structure and appearance. The pilchard cellars are all above ground, and of a quadrilateral form, though their sides are not generally of uniform length. About seventy feet perhaps may be allowed for their average extent. The center of this quadrangle is open to the sky. Three of its sides are covered by a double pent-house; the outer one designed to protect those who clean the fish; and the inner one to receive the fish after they are cleansed, and whilst they are under pressure for the extraction of their oil. The lofts of the pent-houses contain the seines, nets, and other tackle, when not employed in the fishery; and under the floor of the buildings are contrived vats, or receptacles for the oil which drains or is expressed form the fish. Being conveyed to these cellars on horses and in carts, the pilchards are cast in a heap in the center of the area, and then taken individually by the bulkers, who, having cleansed them, place them in strata of single layers on the floor of the inner pent-house, with a quantity of salt between each layer. The *bulk*, or pile, thus constructed, rises generally to the height of four or five

feet. In this situation the fish remain for thirty or forty days, during which time a considerable quantity of oil deliquesces from the mass, and runs into the receptacles below. This is called maiden oil, and is the best which the pilchards produce. The distillation being completed, the bulks are broken up, the fish laid regularly in barrels, and again pressed by a mechanical force, both to extract more oil, and render them as compact as possible; after which they are fit for exportation. The oil produced by this second operation is of a coarser nature than the other, and sells for a less price. It is said that under these processes twelve hogsheads of good fish will produce one hogshead of oil. The salt used for the purpose is brought from Liverpool; it is of a course grain, serves for two years, and is then sold for manure at 4*d.* per bushel.

In the prosperous days of the Cornish fishery, the operations which I have just described must have given a most agreeable character of active industry to Marazion during the season when they were carried on. At present, indeed, but a small degree of this animation is visible, as the want of a market throws a languor over the whole system; but from a little specimen which fell under our own observation, of the bustle produced by the appearance of a a shoal, even under the present depression of the

trade, we could form some idea of what it *must* be under more auspicious circumstances. When we reached Marazion, the fish had not yet arrived, but the *huers* were on the look-out, and the town was big with the expectation of their speedy appearance. In the middle of the night the event occurred. A full unclouded moon shone brightly upon the glassy bosom of the tranquil deep: assisted by her radiance, the keen experienced eye of the huer detected the approach of the innumerable shoals; and he gave the expected signal. In a few minutes a scene was presented to us that recalled to the mind the beautiful simile of Virgil's bees:

" Qualis apes æstate novâ per florea rura
" Exercent sub sole labor, cum gentis adultos
" Educunt fœtus, aut cum liquentia mella
" Stipant, et dulci distendunt nectare cellas,
" Aut onera accipiunt venientum, aut agmine facto,
" Ignavum fucos pecus a præsepibus arcent:
" Fervet opus."

The strand was thronged with people; proprietors and fishermen, women and children, all interested, anxious, and alert; the boats were quickly manned, and rushed rapidly through the waves, followed by the prayers and good wishes of the multitude. We could just discern them by the light of the moon arrived at their station, and letting down their nets.

A chearful cry, re-echoed from the people on shore, soon announced that the prey was captured; and by nine o'clock in the morning nearly a thousand hogsheads of pilchards were landed on the strand.

Having amused ourselves for some time with this curious importation, and the circumstances that attended it, and gained all the information we wished respecting the fishery, we proceeded to visit St. Michael's Mount. This venerable and lofty eminence is separated from the main land by an isthmus 30 or 40 yards over, and about 800 yards in length, consisting of pebbles and sand, which is generally deserted by the tide in mild weather for three or four hours during the ebb, and may then be passed in carriages or on foot. When the weather is rough, however, the ridge continues covered even at low water; and the Mount is thus frequently converted into an actual island for many days together. As we traversed this isthmus, our attention was directed to a vast rock of granite, which reared itself on the right hand side, and being left dry by the recess of the waters, allowed us to walk round it. Viewed from below, it appeared to terminate in a rough and craggy summit; but we were informed by our guide that it has a level surface of fifty feet by twenty, on which anciently stood a religious edifice dedicated to the Virgin Mary; a

tradition that is countenanced by the name of the *Chapel Rock*, which it still bears. Having reached the Mount, we ascended to the town of St. Michael's, situated at its base, a group of three or four streets, climbing up the ascent of the hill, and accommodated with a snug safe basin,* capable of receiving fifty sail, defended by piers. It contains little worth notice, consisting chiefly of dwellings occupied by those engaged in the fishery; and store-houses for the pilchards. Upwards of 200 feet in perpendicular height, above this town, towers the summit of the mount, rising from its base, in all the naked majesty of barren rock, and crested with a Gothic church, and other buildings in the same style of architecture. The ascent is abrupt and difficult; and defended by various fortifications must have

* "This basin was formed in 1425, when it is recorded "in the register of the Bishop of Exeter, that Edmund then "Bishop, granted forty days indulgence to all those who "should contribute, or otherways assist the inhabitants of "Marazion in building the stone pier then begun. It has "since been rebuilt by Sir John St. Aubyn, the third baronet "of that name, in the years 1726 and 1727. The entrance "is in the middle of the north front, by an opening of forty "feet. The west front of the wall is 481 feet. Towards the "north and east it measures 445 feet."—*Grose's Ant.* viii. 35.

been impregnable, before the invention of gunpowder entirely changed the art of war, and rendered the advantages of natural situation a circumstance of comparatively little consequence. Having for some time thundered at the portal, we were at length admitted within the walls, and conducted by the person who lives in this military ecclesiastical residence through its several parts. They consist of the ancient Saxon church, built in the reign of Edward the Confessor; and some more modern apartments, erected a century and a half since,* but repaired about sixty years ago by an ancestor of the present owner of the Mount, Sir John St. Aubyn, bart. Of the latter it may be sufficient to say, that good taste directed the architect in his designs; and prevented all incongruities between the style of the older members of the buildings, and the more recent additions. We were glad to understand too, that

* At this time some of the ancient buildings seem to have been converted into habitable rooms. This was probably the case with a large dining-hall, (the old refectory of the monks,) fitted up with a very extraordinary stucco frieze, which represents the chase of the wild-boar, bull, stag, ostrich, fox, rabbit, and hare. At the upper end of the apartment is the date 1641, and over it the royal arms. The St. Aubyn arms are at the other end.

many interior decorations were in contemplation; and that it was the intention of the present liberal possessor of the place to fit up the church with greater splendour than it had exhibited even in more prosperous days. Inconsiderable indeed, and unknown as it now is, the time has been, when its name was great in ecclesiastical story, and its venerable character attracted the resort of multitudes to it from the most distant places. I speak now of its recorded Christian history, without ascending to those remoter times, when the lofty summit of St. Michael's Mount was the scene of Pagan superstitions: though were we to attribute to it the rites of Canaanitish worship, we should have a sufficient foundation in probability for the supposition. It is a fact irrefragably established, that the Phænician colonists of Gades trafficked to the south-western coast of Cornwall from high antiquity. It is also *likely*, that they would form settlements in a spot with which they had such constant and intimate intercourse; and if so, where could they have seated themselves to more advantage than in the neighbourhood of St. Michael's Mount? It follows, that where they became stationary, *there* they would practice the rites of their religion; and as we have no reason to doubt that in their various migrations they carried with them the superstitions of their fathers

so we may conclude, that these would accompany them into their Cornish settlements. Now, we must recollect, that one remarkable feature of these superstitions was, the practice of choosing *high places* for the solemnities of worship; a practice founded in the natural feelings of the human mind, and therefore coeval with the first corruptions of religion. The silence and solitude of such eminences were considered as peculiarly favourable to that mental abstraction from sublunary things, which the religious spirit always wishes to possess in the hour of its communion with the Deity. Their loftiness also held out an additional reason for consecrating them to holy purposes. Elevated on their summit, the worshipper would be far removed from the din of human intercourse; and, high

> " Above the smoke and stir of this dim spot
> " Which men call earth, (and with low-thoughted care
> " Confin'd and pester'd in this penfold here,
> " Strive to keep up a frail and feverish being,
> " Unmindful of the crown that Virtue gives,
> " After this mortal change, to her true servants,
> " Amongst the enthroned gods on sainted seats:")

with no objects around him but what were solemn, vast, and still, every association of his mind and every feeling of his heart would be attuned to the

holy purposes of his retirement. Fancy would quickly catch the influence of a scene so awful and impressive; and superstition soon convert those reveries of the imagination, which it was so calculated to inspire, into actual communications with heaven, and visible appearances of the Deity; a result that would confirm their appropriation to religion and its rites. From these, and such like causes, seems to have arisen that peculiar veneration for the summits of lofty hills, which characterised the Canaanitish worship, the earliest superstition of which we have any accounts; and hence it is that we find so many instances in the Bible of their being resorted to for the purpose of prayer, sacrifice, and incantation. When Balak, the Canaanitish prince of Moab, wished for a curse, sanctioned by Heaven, upon the Israelites his enemies, he took Balaam, and led him to the *high places* of Baal, that the prophet, catching inspiration from the spot, might deliver the wished-for execration, confirmed by the authority of his God: and being disappointed *there* in the result of his offering of a bullock and a ram upon seven altars, he successively conveyed Balaam to the top of Pisgah and the top of Peor, in hopes that the divine communication might visit him on one or other of these consecrated mountainous summits.

To return from these hypothetical excursions, and to confine ourselves within the horizon of recorded history, we find that St. Michael's Mount as far back as the fifth century was a place consecrated to the Christian religion, the retreat of monastics, and the resort of pilgrims. Hither, in the year 490, came St. Keyna, daughter of Braganus king of Brecknockshire, with her "cockle hat," and pilgrim's staff, to pay her vows at the shrine of its tutelary saint; but fascinated by the magic influence of the place, she forgot the splendours of royalty, and the joys of home, and continued as a devotee, where she had intended only to have been a visiter. Here too she was afterwards joined by her nephew Cadoc, who associated himself to the same body of retired religious, with whom his aunt had mingled, and repaid them for admitting him, by producing miraculously a fountain of fresh water, of which they stood greatly in need. A few monks continued here in the time of Edward the Confessor, who bestowed upon them by charter the property of the Mount, lands in Cornwall, and the port of Romney in Kent. Shortly after William the Conqueror had seized the crown of England, amongst the munificent gifts with which he rewarded the services of his followers, he gave the dutchy of Cornwall (including St. Michael's Mount) to Robert earl of

Mortaign, who, out of regard to Normandy his native country, made the monastery a cell to a Cistertian abbey in those parts, and called it St. Michael *de Periculo Maris*, from its situation, which was similar to that of Mount's Bay. To this establishment was added, in the succeeding century, a small *nunnery:* for, the Cistertians, (improved, in 1148, by Gilbert of Sempringham, in Lincolnshire, and thenceforward called Gilbertines,) defying the power of temptation, and boldly opposing the spirit to the flesh, made a point, wherever they planted themselves, of trying, or affecting to try, the dangerous experiment of perpetually contemplating those objects to which they were attracted by nature, but from whom they were eternally separated by the stern laws of their absurd religion. The success, however, of this unnatural effort, seems to have been but indifferent, as the nunnery only existed fifty years; a period more than sufficient to shew its folly and perverseness. When Edward III. seized upon all the alien priories, this amongst others, came into the hands of the king; but it was shortly afterwards restored, and made denizen, on condition of paying to the crown the same sum that it heretofore annually transmitted to its foreign superior convent. A subsequent ordonance, however, gave again to the monarch all religious houses which *were not conventual*, when,

notwithstanding the prior of St. Michael's appeared to the summons, and produced sufficient proof that this religious house could not be included under this description, the Bishop of St. David's, then treasurer to the king, set it to farm at 20*l.* per annum; a rent afterwards remitted to 10*l.* on account of the monks being unable to pay the former, and maintain at the same time the buildings of the monastery in repairs which were considered at that time as no mean protection to the neighbouring county.* Poor however, as the priory might be, when this remission was made in its annual rent, it became afterwards much enriched by the resort of pilgrims, and the donations of the rich; and Henry VI. on building King's College in Cambridge, conferred it upon the prior and monks of St. Michael's Mount. At the dissolution of religious houses by Henry VIII. it was valued at 110*l.* 12*s.* That monarch conferred its revenues and government on Humphrey Arundell, esq; who enjoyed it till his death, in the first year of the reign of Edward VI. when it was granted on a lease to John Milton, esq; at the yearly rent of 40 marks. It afterwards came into the family of the present possessor.

* Grose's Antiquities, vol. iii. p. 31.

The most remarkable circumstance connected with the ecclesiastical history of St. Michael's Mount is the prodigious resort of pilgrims to it in former times, and the salutary spiritual consequences which were supposed to result from this pious visit. We have seen that the holiness attributed to it was of force sufficient to draw a royal dame of the fifth century from her father's court, and fix her within its precincts; and that a similar spirit of superstition produced a similar conduct in her nephew. But what occasioned the greatest influx of votaries to its shrine was an immunity granted to all such visiters by Pope Gregory, in the eleventh century, and confirmed by Pope Leofric. "Know all men," says the latter, "that the most holy father Gregory, "in the year of our Lord 1070, bearing an extra-"ordinary devoutness to the church of St Michael's "Mount, in the county of Cornwall, has piously "granted to the said church, and to all the faithful "who shall seek and *visit it with their oblations and* "*alms, a remission of a third part of their penances.*" The importance of such a privilege as this, in an age when morality was sufficiently lax, and the religion professed not calculated to purify the heart or regulate the life, will satisfactorily account for the number of persons who for some time flocked to this sequestered spot, on the holy errand of pay-

ing their vows and their money on its altar. It is however a very curious fact, that privileged places of the same description multiplied so rapidly in after ages, that before three centuries had elapsed from the grant of Gregory, penitents, accommodated with nearer and more convenient resorts for the remission of their acts of penance, had entirely discontinued their visits to St. Michael's Mount; and even the circumstance of its possessing such a privilege had faded from the knowledge of the very monks themselves who inhabited the spot. The accidental discovery of an old register put their successors in possession of the secret in the beginning of the fifteenth century; who, too wise to let it sink again into oblivion, painted upon the doors of the church a notification of the privilege of their house; and addressed a circular letter to all the clergy of the kingdom, requesting them to publish in their several churches a formal annunciation of the indulgence that would be granted to those penitents who visited as heretofore the church of St. Michael's Mount.* Thus notified and announced, the troops of pilgrims who availed themselves of the remission of penance offered by the monastery of St. Michael's became

* William of Worcester, p. 102.

more numerous than ever, and we have accounts still remaining, which prove that so low down as the year 1500, it reaped considerable profits from these wretched zealots of a wretched superstition. To increase the mummery of this pilgrimage, and to make a greater impression on the minds of the votaries, by adding difficulty and danegr to ceremony, it is probable, that at this recommencement of the exercise of their privilege, the monks constructed the celebrated chair on the battlements of the tower, known by the name of St. Michael's Chair. By climbing to this terrifying seat, and placing himself within it, the pilgrim, it is likely, was considered as performing an act of peculiar holiness, and had to boast a contempt of danger in the service of religion, that soothed his own mind with the idea of acquiring thereby a more than ordinary share of the divine favour; and at the same time procured him the respect of less enthusiastic or less insensible devotees than himself. It is to this self-gratulation, the result of having accomplished the dangerous feat, that an old poet, cited by Carew, seems to allude in the following lines:

"Who knows not Mighel's Mount and Chaire,
"The *Pilgrim's holy vaunt?*"

We were naturally desirous of seeing an object which had been so famous in its day; and following

our guide up a narrow circular stair-case to the top of the church tower, were soon conducted to the elevated seat,* learning by the way, as an encouragement to place ourselves in it, that since the Reformation its magic virtue had experienced a considerable change for the better; for as before it certainly ensured to any one who sat in it the happiness of heaven *after death*, so now it produced to every married man who enthroned himself in it, a *heaven upon earth*, by giving him the *management* of

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* It must not be concealed, however, that Antiquaries are divided with respect to the original use of this member of the tower: Some contending that it exhibits merely the remains of a stone *lantern*, in which a light was kept by the monks during the night, and in hazy weather, for the direction and safety of ships navigating the neighbouring sea: (see Warton's note, and Grose:) Others, on the contrary, maintain that it was constructed for the purpose mentioned in the text. (Whitaker.) But perhaps, after all, the truth may lie, as it generally does in all disputed points, between the two opinions. This little appendage to the tower might have originally been formed for the purpose of a light-house; but afterwards falling into decay, through neglect, or on account of the expence attending its maintenance, it might then be consecrated to superstition; and a seat within its holy cavity be made an occasion of additional immunities to the pilgrims, and additional profits to the monastery.

his *wife*, and the *government* of his *family*. This inducement, however, was not of a nature to have any effect on those who were satisfied with a divided sway; and I declined the *honour of a sitting*; though one of the party, whose countenance W— and myself agreed to be strongly characterized with the marks of a Jerry Sneak, boldly ascended to the chair, and enjoyed for some minutes in his dangerous elevation the ideal prospect of future domestic dominion. To us it appeared, that nothing but the most degraded state of matrimonial servitude, accompanied with that faith which can believe a thing because it is impossible, would have emboldened any one to trust himself in a little basin, elevated above the battlements of the tower, projecting from its side, and hanging over a frightful perpendicular precipice of some hundred feet in depth. We wished all success to the charm, but thought the experiment attended with more jeopardy, than chance of emancipation from that noxious tyranny which drove the unfortunate spouse to practise it.

From the leads of the tower the view that spread itself before us, formed a combination of objects, too varied and beautiful to be described; though we doubted whether or no it were superior to that which the same extent of country must have presented previously to the tenth century, when this

shore seems to have been inundated by the ocean, and a large portion of it thenceforward usurped into his domain. Before that time the declivities of the Mount, clothed with timber, justified the propriety of its ancient name, *Carreg Lúg en Kúg*, "the hoary rock in the wood;" meadows, fields, and groves, occupied the space now covered by the capacious bay, and stretched so far to the south, as to leave St. Michael's Mount six miles within the land;* a wide extent sprinkled with towns, villages, and many of those 140 churches, which, as we have seen, William of Worcester attributes to the tract of country that was submersed between this place and the Scilly Islands.

It is reasonable to suppose that the natural situation and advantages of St. Michael's Mount would point it out as a proper spot for defensive military operations, and in fact it became a fortress as early as the twelfth century; though such was its strength even when tenanted by monks, that it was only by surprize, and not by regular attack, that this change in its character could be effected. Henry de Pome-

* "Spacium loci montis Sancti Michaelis est ducentorum "cubitorum, undique oceano cinctum; predictus locus cras- "simâ primò claudebatur sylva, ab oceano miliaribus distans "sex, aptissimam præbens latebram ferarum."—*Wyl. Wor.* page 102.

roy is said to have been the person who, during the captivity of Richard I. committed the sacrilegious act of treacherously gaining possession of St. Michael's Mount, and expelling the monks. The impious deed, however, was speedily avenged on the person of the perpetrator; for Henry, hearing that Richard had recovered his liberty, and fearing the just punishment of the King for such an outrage, became his own executioner on the scene of his guilt. The monks were restored by the king, but the place became a military post from that time. The contests between the Houses of York and Lancaster, which affected the most remote corners of the kingdom, and deluged the land with blood, diversified the military history of St. Michael's Mount. In the thirteenth of Edward IV. John de Vere earl of Oxford, an active partizan of the latter, after the defeat at Barnet, took shipping for this place, attended by a few faithful followers, and under the disguise of pilgrims, surprized the garrison, and seized the fortress, which he for a long time defended against the king's forces, slaying in one of the attacks John Arundel of Trerise, (who was buried in the chapel,) but at length surrendered it on reasonable conditions. Twenty-seven years afterwards, in the Cornish insurrection, it experienced another capture, the particulars of which Carew thus

relates: "During the late Cornish commotion, "divers gentlemen, with their wives, and families, "fled to the protection of this place, where the "rebels beseiged them, fyrst wynning the playne at "the hil's foote by assault, when the water was out, "and then the even ground on the top, by carrying "up great trusses of hay before them to blench the "defendant's sight, and dead their shot; after "which they could make but slender resistance, for "no sooner should any one within peep his head "over those unflanked wals, but he became an "open marke to an whole showre of arrows. This "disadvantage, together with woman's dismay, and "decrease of victuals, forced a surrender to these "Rakehels' mercy, who nothing guilty of that "effeminate vertue, spoyled their goods, imprisoned "their bodies, and were rather by God's gracious "providence, than any want of will, purpose, or "attempt, restrayned from murdering the principal "persons."

About the same time Lady Catherine Gordon, wife of Perkin Warbeck, the impostor and pretender to the crown, was taken by Lord Daubeny at St. Michael's Mount, whither she had retired as a place of refuge, and delivered to the king.

A place of this description was not likely to rest in peace during the troubles of the first Charles's

reign. In the year 1646, it surrendered to the Parliamentary forces under Colonel Hammond, after a stout defence by its governor Sir Francis Basset, who, with his garrison, had permission to retire to the Scilly Islands. The besiegers found the Marquis of Hamilton a prisoner in the fort, and what probably they esteemed a more important object, a considerable store of ordnance, ammunition, and provision also; consisting of 100 barrels of powder, 500 muskets, 100 pikes, 30 pieces of cannon, three murthering pieces, plenty of eatables, and 80 tons of wine.

Since this period the history of St. Michael's Mount has been peaceable, affording no particulars worth recording; a circumstance in which you will probably most heartily rejoice, as I must already have sufficiently tired you with the subject. I could not, however, resist the inclination of being thus particular in my account of a place, which at once delighted my eye, and filled my imagination; and which, when we consider its situation and appearance, its history, natural, ecclesiastical, and military, we must, perhaps, allow to be one of the most remarkable spots in the kingdom.

The enchanting beauties of Mount's Bay were strikingly contrasted by the grim features of the road to Helston; which afforded us no object of

curiosity or amusement, except the Castle of Pengerswick, situated nearly half way between the two towns, a little to the right of the road. Its situation, which is a bottom, evinced at once that it never could have been a place of great strength, though from its machicolated gate, embattled turrets, and other features of military architecture, we judged it must have been built for defence. Indeed the name marks its designation; *pen-giveras-ike* signifying the *head ward of the cove.* No topographical writer mentions by whom or when it was built; but tradition, determined to supply the deficiency, tells us its architect was a man who had made so much money at sea, that when he loaded his ass with his gold, the weight was so great as to break the poor animal's back. The foundation of this legend seems to have been the representation of an ass (now obliterated) formerly painted on the wainscoat of the first floor, which was probably nothing more than the emblematical illustration of some moral sentences under it. These are in the black letter; and one of them compares a miser to an ass loaded with riches, who, without attending to his golden burden, satisfies himself with a bitter thistle. It is a circumstance not discreditable to our ancestors, that their halls and rooms of festivity were frequently ornamented with these hints to good conduct, moral sentences, and

passages from scripture: they had a tendency at least to awaken and impress useful reflections, which cannot be asserted of modern domestic decorations, even if they be designed with all the taste, and executed at all the expence, so minutely described in Mr. Hope's elaborate publication on Household Furniture. We have only one story on record connected with Pengerswick Castle; and that is an anecdote of blood. A Mr. Milliton, who had killed a man in the reign of Henry VIII. purchased, in the name of his son, the domain of Pengerswick, and passed the remainder of his guilty life in a secret chamber of its tower, seen only by his most trusty friends, and, I should hope, bitterly deploring the crime that had thus condemned him to seclusion from the world.

The town of HELSTON made us some amends for the dreariness of the country through which it is approached, being neat, regular, and populous. It stands on the river Lo, and carries on a considerable export trade, chiefly of the tin manufactured in the heart of the county. A large supply of fish had just been brought to its market, which were selling at such low prices as astonished us. Amongst others we observed great quantities of enormous Conger Eels, with their adder-like heads, and eyes nearly resembling the human organ of vision. "What can be done with such a creature as this?"

said W—, pointing to one that weighed nearly 8olbs. 'Why,' replied the market-man, 'cut him 'up, and put him into a *poy* to be sure; they are 'main good eating, you know.' W— blessed his stars that he was not condemned to such monstrous fare; and declared he would as soon have thought of making a meal off the serpent of Epidaurus.

It is only in places distant from the metropolis that one can hope to find any vestiges of ancient customs, or original manners. At Helston we were gratified by finding the traces of a superstition which the abrasion of fourteen centuries had not obliterated. We were told, that on the eighth day of May, an annual holiday was kept at Helston, evidently the remains of the Roman *Floralia*, a festival observed by that people in honour of the goddess Flora on the fourth of the calends of May, which answered to our 28th of April. Its present name, the *Furry*, would discover its original, were it not sufficiently pointed out by the time of its celebration, and the rites observed on the occasion. In one particular, indeed, it happily bears no resemblance to the Roman festival,* as none of the

* "His ludis *fœminas*, quæ vulgato corpore quæstum "faciebant, denudari, et pudendis obscœnisque invelatis, per "luxum et lasciviam currere; et impudicos jocos agere, moris

indecencies are practised at Helston which characterized the ancient Floralia ; but in all its innocent, gay, and unexceptionable features, it continues the same as in the earliest times of its observance. On the 8th of May, before the dawn of day, the cheerful sound of various instruments echoes through the town of Helston, accompanied with the roar of a chorus song, vociferated by a large party of men, women, and children; announcing the arrival of a festival which is to give a temporary repose to every sort of labour, and to be dedicated entirely to sport and jollity. In a short time the streets are thronged with spectators, or assistants in the mysteries. Should any industrious young man be found inattentive to the summons to universal relaxation, he is instantly seized by the joyous band, mounted upon a

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" erat. Hos in Vico Patricio aut proximo celebrabant, " noctuque accensis facibus, cum multa obscœnitate verbo- " rum per urbem currebunt, et ad tubæ sonitum convenie- " ebant,"—*Rosini Antiq. Rom. corpus Dempsteri*, p. 338. c. xv.

Ovid endeavours awkwardly enough to give a reason for the obscene character of these rites :

" Quærere conabar quare lascivia major
" His foret in ludis, liberiorque jocus :
" Sed mihi succurrit, numen non esse severum,
" Aptaque deliciis munera ferre deam."

Fast. l. 5. v. 331.

pole, borne on the shoulders of some of the party, and hurried to the river, into which, if he do not commute his punishment by a fine, he is plunged *sans ceremonie*. At nine o'clock the revellers appear before the Grammar-School, and make their demand of a prescriptive holiday ; and then proceed through the town, making a collection from house to house of money to be expended in the sports of the day. After having levied this general contribution, the troops *fadés* as it is called (or in the modern English *goes*) into the country, where they gather oak branches and flowers, and with these, like the *Floralians* of old, having adorned their heads, they return into the town, through which they dance and gambol till it is dusk, preceded by a fiddle playing an ancient traditional tune, passing without ceremony (in the mean time) through any house they think proper, a right assumed by the party, and granted by the inhabitants from time immemorial. Within the memory of man the higher classes of the people of Helston used to assist in these rites, *fading* into the country in the afternoon, and when they came back dancing like the crowd, and observing the same ceremony of entering into private houses. This custom, however, has vanished before modern refinement, and now only a select party observe the practice, performing their exforensic orgies after

night-fall, and then resorting to the ball-room, where the evening is closed by the genteel inhabitants with a ball and supper. The unusual gaiety of the *furry* in the year 1796, is spoken of with rapture; it seems to have reached the climax of fun and jollity. A bard of the neighbourhood wrote the following excellent songs for the occasion, which added to the celebrity of the day, and the elegance of the entertainment.

JANUARY.

THOUGH oft we shiver'd to the gale,
That howl'd along the gloomy waste:
Or mark'd, in billows wrapt, the sail
Which vainly struggled with the blast;
Tho' as the dark wave flash'd on high,
We view'd the form of danger near;
While, as we caught the seaman's cry,
Cold terror check'd the starting tear;
Yet have we seen, where zephyrs breathe
Their sweets o'er mead or pasture-down,
Young laughing Spring with purple wreath
The hoary head of winter crown.
But, ere we hail'd the budding tree,
Or all its opening bloom survey'd,
Whilst in gay rounds the vernal bee
Hummi'd o'er the fragrance of the glade;
Fled was the faëry smile, and clos'd
The little triumph of an hour;
And melancholy's eye repos'd
On the pale bud, the fainting flower!

APRIL.

No longer the goddess of florets shall seem
To rekindle the bloom of the year;
Then scatter around us the wreck of a dream,
And resign us to winter austere.
To its promise yon delicate child of the shade,
The primrose, is never untrue:
Nor the lilac unfolds, the next moment to fade,
Its clusters of beautiful blue.
Though weak be its verdure, ere long shall the thorn
The pride of its blossom display,
Where Flora, amid the mild splendour of morn,
Unbosoms the fragrance of May.

THE EIGHTH OF MAY.

Soft as the sigh of zephyr heaves
The verdure of its lucid leaves,
Yon lily's bell, of vestal white,
Moist from the dew-drop, drinks the light.
No more in feeble colours cold,
The tulip, for each glowing fold,
So richly wav'd with vermeil dyes,
Steals the pure blush of orient skies.
The hyacinth, whose pallid hue
Shrunk from the blast that Eurus blue,
Now trusts to May's delicious calm,
Its tender tint, its musky balm.
And hark! the plumed warblers pour
Their notes, to greet the genial hour,
As, whispering love, this arborous shade
Sports with the sun-beam down the glade.

Then say, ye Nymphs! and truly tell,
If ever with the lily's bell,
Or with the tulip's radiant dye,
Young poets give your cheeks to vie;
Or to the hyacinth compare
The clustering softness of your hair;
If e'er they bid your vocal strain
In silence hush the feather'd train;
Beat not your hearts with more delight
At every "rural sound and sight,"
Than at such flattery, to the ear
Tho' syren-sweet, yet insincere?

THE FADÉ.

White-vestur'd, ye maidens of *Ellas*, draw near,
And honour the rites of the day:
'Tis the fairest that shines in the round of the year;
Then hail the bright Goddess of May.
O come, let us rifle the hedges, and crown
Our heads with gay garlands of sweets:
And when we return to the shouts of the town,
Let us weave the light dance thro' the streets.
Flinging open each door, let us enter and frisk,
Though the master be all in a pother—
For, away from one house as we merrily whisk,
We will *fadé* it quick thro' another.
The nymph who despises the furry-day dance,
Is a fine, or a *finical* lady—
Then let us with hearts full of pleasure advance,
And mix, one and all, in the *Fadé*.

THE SOLITARY FAIR.

Perhaps, fair maid! thy musing mind,
Little to festive scenes inclin'd,
Scorns not the dancer's merry mood,
But only longs for solitude.
Thy heart, alive to nature's power,
Flutters within the roseate bower,
Thrills with new warmth, it knows not why,
And steals delirium from a sigh.
Alas! though so averse from glee,
This genial hour is felt by thee:
The tumults of thy bosom prove,
That May is but the nurse of—love!

BEWARE OF THE MONTH OF MAY.

Then, gentle maid, who'er thou art,
Who bid'st the shades embowering, veil
The sorrows of a love-sick heart,
And listen to thy pensive tale;
Sweet girl! insidious May beware;
And heed thy poet's warning song:
Lo! May and Venus spread the snare
For those who fly the festal throng! *

As it was our intention to visit the LIZARD POINT, and understanding that the roads in this Cornish Chersonesus were very intricate, we provided ourselves with directions for the excursion from

* Polwhele's History of Cornwall, vol. i. p. 46.

two or three different quarters: they were, indeed, very complicated and somewhat contradictory, but depending upon our own sagacity, our general knowledge of the principal bearings of the country, and above all on the length and fineness of the day, and the advantage of a full moon at night, we boldly set out, without a guide, upon an expedition which would have required the aid of Ariadne's clue to have performed it without an error.* Our deviations, however, had one moral use; if they tried our tempers, they humbled our vanity, and left upon our minds a friendly impression of the wisdom of Solomon's advice, not "*to lean on our own understanding.*" The village of Mullion, detected from afar by the lofty tower of its church, is reached without difficulty; but to discover the way beyond this place, *hoc opus, hic labor est.* Indeed had we not known that the *steatite* or soap-rock quarries lay immediately on the coast, it would have been beyond the reach even of our acuteness to have

* Being indisposed at Helston, I was unable to accompany my friend W— to the Lizard, and obliged to go on to Redruth. From him, however, I received the particulars of this expedition; and not being willing to break the texture of the narrative, have given them in the first person plural.

found them out. Keeping as close to the cliff as it was practicable, we at length, about three miles from Mullion, descended into a narrow valley, where we perceived the object of which we were in search, and the workmen employed in extracting the fossil from the rock. The name *steatite* has been imposed upon this production from its appearance and texture; for both to the eye and the touch it bears the strongest resemblance to *soap*. Its matrix is an hard serpentine rock, in which it lies imbedded in veins or lodes; almost ductile when first dug out, but gradually indurating when exposed to the air, though always retaining its unctuous feel. Its general colour is a dull white, streaked or spotted with purple or red; though varying in hue according to the different combinations of its component parts. Five men are employed in digging the article, of which they procure about 500lbs. per week; and three or four women in an adjoining building sort the steatite when it is brought to them, separating the finer masses from the grosser, and packing it in barrels for exportation. The former is valued at upwards of 20*l.* per ton; the latter of course sells at a reduced price. Messrs. Flight and Barr, of Worcester, are the owners of the quarry, and consume the greater part of its produce, using it in their china manufactory, by mixing about one-third

of the best steatite with the other porcelain earths; a combination that imparts to the ware a most beautiful china-like appearance. Borlase, fifty years ago, examined the various steatites of the rocks with great attention, and has given us the following account of their different species:

"No. 1. The pure white is a close-grained "glossy clay, dissolves soon in water, is tasteless, "sticks a little to the tongue, deposits a yellowish "pulpy settlement at the bottom, above which a "cloud of the finest parts continues suspended; "mixed with oil, it becomes greasy; it is also too "fat to make a body of colour for painting in water, "and makes no effervescence with aqua fortis. It "is very absorbent, and takes spots out of silk, "without injuring the colour; and is possibly the "same which Bishop Pontoppidan calls 'the white "'Talc-stone, of such a whiteness, that it is used "'in Norway for powder, as it may be pulverized "'into an impalpable fineness.' This is carefully "selected from the other sorts of clay, barrelled up, "and almost wholly engrossed, by people employed "under the managers of the porcelain manufactures.

"No. 2. A white, dry, chalky earth, sticks "strongly to the tongue, tasteless, dissolvess easily "in water into a pulp, with acids makes no effer-"vescence.

" No. 3. The same chalky earth equally mixed " with a red earth; its water ruddy, like red chalk; " its deposit more gritty than the foregoing; makes " no effervescence with acids.

" No. 4. The next sort of this clay is very white, " clouded here and there, but not veined with pur- " ple. It dissolves in water with more difficulty " than No. 1, and tinges the water with purple; as " to the rest agreeing in all its properties with No. " 1. This is probably the *cimolia purpurescens*, or " *ad purpurissum inclinans*, of Pliny, lib. xxxv. " chap. xvii.

" No. 5. A glossy, pearl-coloured, hard clay, " approaching nearly to the consistence of a white " opaque spar; soon cleaves itself into granules " when immersed in water, yet dissolves no farther; " but with water grinds soon into a flesh-coloured " milky pulp: it is much harder than soap and wax, " saws free and greasy. There is a more stony " variety of this clay, and more speckled with pur- " ple, so that you can scarce break it with a hammer; " and I find that the more there is of the purple " in any sample, the more hard, and less ready to " dissolve in water. But the most curious of this " sort, which I have seen, was discovered here in " 1755; it is of a texture so close and fine, that " after it is cut or scraped, it remains as smooth,

" and of as high a polish, as the best porcelain does " after it is burnt. It has an incrustation of green " amianthos on the side of the lode, which in my " specimen was the twelfth part of an inch thick; " and is the most beautiful fossil of this kind I have " seen. This may be the Galactites of the ancients, " at least it is much of the same nature.

" No. 6. A fat mass of steatites, its coat or skin " about half an inch thick, of a waxen texture, of " a brown-yellow or deep amber colour, its interior " strong purple, interlaced with a paler, more cine- " reous purple, the whole veined with a whitish " steatites, exactly, as to the exterior, like the pur- " ple Plymouth marble; it dissolves into a pulp " sooner than the foregoing number.

" No. 7. In the lode (or vein), near the top of " the cliff, I find a kind of green gritty chalk, which " may be compressed with the grasp of the hand, " divides in water easily, and dissolves into a " clammy pulp. In the more regular and contracted " lode below, I find the green making a stony course " of about an inch wide; its taste brackish; immer- " ged in water, it divides into angular granules; it " is the most solid and hardest of any yet mentioned, " whence I conclude that the green steatites, which " is tender, gritty, and pulpy above, becomes more " compact in the contracted vein below; its parts

" attracting one another more forcibly where they
" have not room to spread into a loose incoherent
" state, consequently the narrower the mold, cleft,
" or vein, the more close, hard, and stony the
" included substance becomes; and if this stone
" prove harder still underneath, as is not unlikely,
" it will thereby become the more valuable.

" No. 8. A deeper purple, and more stony
" steatites, from the same cliffs; but whether from
" the principal lode, uncertain. It has so much
" of the nature of stone, that it does not swell nor
" decompound in water, as the foregoing numbers.
" Being so stony, I tried to get a good colour from
" it by grinding it in oil; it was very difficult to
" bruise, but when ground fine was too greasy for
" painting.

" No. 9. A blackish kind of steatites, the vein
" about an inch thick, its exterior smooth and glossy,
" its interior veined and spotted with No. 5: its tex-
" ture close, corneous, and approaching in the main
" to a dark flint, and as hard as flint it was to grind,
" but it will not give fire with steel; being ground
" down it became of a good burnt umber colour, but
" like the rest, too fat for painting. This is how-
" ever much coveted, and barrelled up for London,
" the reasons concealed, but for the porcelain likely,
" or glass manufacture, or both. In the same vein

" there is a small course of real spar, (very unusual " in our Cornish lodes,) about three-fourths of " an inch thick, No. 10. This spar lies not in a " solid lode, but in a shattery tesslated state, like " so many dies, loose and side by side; it ferments " immediately with aqua fortis; is subtransparent, " and breaks into quadrangular prisms, the base a " Rhombus."

One mile more to the north introduced us to another natural curiosity of the Lizard, Kynance Cove, a most tremendous assemblage of dark serpentine rocks, disposed by the hand of Nature into groups, if I may be allowed the expression, horribly picturesque. The descent into this recess is by a gloomy narrow path, awful, if not dangerous; banishing by its dread solemnity all associations connected with the works of man, and the bustle of society. An interminable ocean was spread before us; huge rocks elevated their august masses high above our heads on each side; and behind us a dark cavern penetrated deeply into the cliff. We only wanted the terrors of a storm to afford us a picture of the true sublime. Unhappily for the mariner, this awful accompaniment to Kynance Cove is but too frequent upon the shores of the Lizard. More than seven months out of the twelve it is deluged with rain, and the terrible south-

westerly winds prevail in the same proportion. Shipwreck is consequently not an unusual event here; though the most prudent precautions have been taken to prevent it, by the construction of two light-houses on the Lizard Point, (about a mile from Kynance Cove,) which front the south, and stand nearly abreast of each other. These point out the most southerly promontory of England, and of course notify the dangerous adjoining coast; but unhappily they are at times found to be insufficient securities against the horrible darkness of the midnight storm, and the uncontroulable fury of convulsed elements. The Lizard Point has much of the character of the Land's End, but wants its sublimity: those travellers therefore who would introduce a just gradation of pleasure into their Cornish excursion, should visit the Lizard *before* they go to the western extremity of the county.

Our course from Ruan to Menachan over Goonhelly downs would have been intolerably dreary, had not the surface on which we rode regaled both the eye and olfactory nerve with a vast profusion of that beautiful and rare English Heath, called the *Erica Vagans*. This natural carpet of blooming vegetation accompanied us for some miles, and then deserted us as suddenly as it had unexpectedly presented itself to our notice. Not a plant of it was

to be seen as we proceeded; a circumstance which bore as strong a testimony to a sudden difference of the soils as if portions of them had been analyzed on the spot by the most subtle chemist.

At *Menachan* we saw the rivulet which produces the semi-metal called *Menachanite*, found here in the form of grains, and procured by washing the gravel and sand of the bed of the stream. Not being as yet applied to any purpose of utility, Menachanite is only interesting to the mineralogist.

The village of Gweek, which stands at the head of the river Hel, terminated the tour of the Lizard Chersonesus. It afforded also comfortable refreshment for ourselves, and good food for our horses, articles we should in vain have enquired for in the other villages through which we passed after quitting Mullion.

Our road to Redruth afforded us more specimens of Druidical remains, on the summits of two lofty hills to the right, about six miles from Helston. They consisted of cairnes and *coits*, a term applied to groups of stones, when some of them are erect, forming three sides of an enclosure, and others placed over them in a horizontal direction. We had before remarked, that these monuments of early superstition were seldom found isolated, but usually in a series contiguous to each other. Here was another instance of this associ-

ation, a circumstance naturally enough accounted for by Borlase in the following manner: "It will, per-" haps," says he, "seem surprising to some readers, "that many places of devotion, and altars of the "same kind, should be found so near to one another. "Karns for instance, on adjoining hills, and some-"times rocks in different parts of the same karns, "or ledges of rocks, marked with the same traces "of the use they were designed for; but it must "be remembered, that the ancients were of opinion "that all places were not at all times equally auspi-"cious, and that the gods might permit, encourage, "or grant in one place or circle, or on one rock or "altar, what they denied in another; an opinion "first suggested for the furtherance and promoting "of error, and continued for the private gain of "these superstitious jugglers; for if appearances of "the victim were not favourable in one place, if "their divinations and enchantments were mistaken "and their predictions failed, the fault was not laid "to the want of art in the priest, or of truth in the "science, or of power in the idol, but to the inno-"cent place; and the places were changed till "appearances became more supple and applicable "to the purposes intended;"* an opinion which he

* Borlase's Antiquities, p. 122.

illustrates and confirms by the conduct of Balak, who, when he employed the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites, finding the incantation fail in one place, and hoping that another might prove more favourable, requests Balaam to accompany him to an adjoining elevation, and there repeat his arts ; " Come, I pray thee, says he, I will bring thee into " another place, peradventure it will please GOD " that thou mayest curse me them from thence."

It had not escaped our observation, also, that the Druidical remains of Cornwall were destitute of *barrows* in their neighbourhood, accompaniments which surround in multitudes the stupendous temples of Wiltshire,—Abury and Stonehenge. I apprehend, however, that their absence may be accounted for upon a very obvious and rational principle. It is universally allowed that barrows are places of sepulture ; mounds raised over the bodies of those who were celebrated for achievements, or dignified by office. Now it seems but reasonable to suppose that the intention of these tumuli was to commemorate the names of those who were interred beneath them. " If I must fall in the field," says a northern chieftian in Ossian, " raise high my grave, Vinvela. Grey " stones, and heaped up earth, shall mark me to " future times. When the hunter shall sit by " the mound, and produce his food at noon, a war-

" rior rests here, he will say, and my fame shall " live in his praise." Such being their design, would not those who constructed them naturally choose such materials for their formation as should be most likely to excite enquiry, by most powerfully striking the eye, and attracting attention? To those who dwelt in the neighbourhood of the Wiltshire temples, a material of this kind presented itself, the best calculated for the purpose that can possibly be imagined; the white chalk of the downs, which, piled into a heap, would be visible from afar, and opposed to the verdant turf that covered the surface of the plain, would form a contrast as agreeable as it was conspicuous. Hence arose, as I conceive, the numerous tumuli scattered over this wide expanse. In Cornwall, on the other hand, chalk was unknown, as their hills were only abundant in stones; and to these alone could they have recourse for materials to immortalize the memory of the departed. Instead therefore of heaping up barrows, which would have been difficult to raise from the scantiness of the soil, and invisible at a distance from the dinginess of their colour, they constructed those carns or aggestions of stones, which occur in such numbers on all the hills, and thus left memorials of their heroes and priests, which, if not so beautiful at first as the barrows of chalk, will outlive these

more perishable sepulchral monuments, and last as long as time shall endure.

We had ridden within two miles of Redruth, when a miner directed us to ascend a rising ground to the left, for the sake of a view. We found it worth the trouble of a deviation from the road, for it not only gave us a great command of the country around, but enabled us to embrace at the same moment the North and South Sea; an unbounded prospect both of the Bristol and British Channels.

The Cornish topographers, with a very pardonable degree of that vanity which characterizes provincial writers, and leads them to attribute as high antiquity as possible to the objects of their antiquarian researches, have carried back the origin of REDRUTH to the times of Druidism. But alas! how vain are the labours of the etymologists; and how weak those structures which are erected upon the fancied similarity of names. Behold, with what ease the hypotheses of Borlase and Pryce are scalped, hamstrung, and afterwards dashed to atoms, by the tomahawk of Whitaker. "The chapel," says this historical polemic, "as it is called, I consider as "the original church of the parish, and the original "cause of the town. The church was fixed here: "Its parsonage-house accompanied it: and the

" latter, I suppose, was called Redruth, or (as the " real name of the town appears to be from some " writings in the hands of the lord, Sir F. Basset) " *Dredruith*. This name, however, was not given " it or the town, we may be sure, as Dr. Pryce " fondly imagines, from Dre-Druith, the Druid's " town; though this (he alleges) it ' undoubtedly " ' signifies from its vicinity to Carn Brea, that cele- " ' brated station of Druidical superstition.' How " such a station *could* give name to a town two miles " off, the limping faith of un-initiated antiquaries " will find it difficult to say. Nor does the word " Druid, though once the most respectable in all " the British vocabulary, retain any marks of honour " in any dialect of the British at present. Christ- " ianity has swept away all the heathen ideas of the " name: and the word now is stampt only with " the impressions of magic and of whoredom; *that* " referring to the *knowledge* of the Druids, and *this* " to the *matrimonial clubs* of them and their vota- " ries. Thus, Dryi, Dryith is rendered by Mr. " Lhuyd a sorcerer; Draoi is properly a Druid, " but now an augur, a charmer, or magician; Draoi, " Dheacd, or Draoidheacta, is properly the " Druidish form of worship, but now magic or " sorcery; Droide-achd, is sorcery, divination, " magic; and Druadh is a charmer or magician.

" All these involuntary acknowledgments of know-
" ledge in the Druids, however, are confined to the
" Irish. The Welsh and the Cornish are not so
" ingenious. They know of nothing, but the lasci-
" viousness of the Druids and their followers.
" Druathaim is to commit fornication; Drioth, a
" harlot, or other unchaste person; Drutharnutog,
" a bawd; Druthlanu, a bawdy-house; and Drutiir,
" a fornicator; Drythyll, lascivious, wanton, leche-
" rous; Drythyllwoh, wantonness, lasciviousnes,
" lechery, lust; Druov, a Druid; Druth, a harlot;
" and Drythyll, bucksome, gamesome. In this
" view of the word Druid, Dre-druith, as meaning
" Druid's town, must either have been so called
" before Christianity was settled here, or have been
" so denominated in an abusive sense. But as it is
" no Roman-British town, it could not have been
" one before Christianity. And the town will not
" allow itself to be considered as a town of magi-
" cians or a town of harlots. If indeed it was not,
" as it certainly was not, a town before Christianity,
" it could have no relation to the Druids, either in
" an abusive or a complimentary sense. And it
" must have been called Dre-druth, from the chan-
" nel on which it stood; Dre-trot signifying
" the house on the bed or channel of the river.
" 'This name is so very ancient,' says Dr. Pryce,

" 'as to be given to the situation of the town,' and " consequently to some house upon or near it, " 'before this kingdom was divided into parishes,' " and therefore in the time of the Druids, if it " means the Druid's town; 'as old writings express " 'thus:' 'in the parish of Uny (St. Uny) juxta " 'Dredruith.' The town is not Roman-British, and " must therefore be of the middle ages. The parish " is older than the town, because the town was not " made the centre of it. But the *parish* itself could " never be denominated as 'juxta Dredruith;' because " Redruth was a *part* of it. Nothing can possibly " be described, as situate near itself. But the small " church, which from its smallness Mr. Tonkin has " called a chapel, and which became so on the erec- " tion of a larger for the town and parish, might " and would be so described. And the parish is " called in old writings that 'of Uny [St. Uny] " 'juxta Dredruith,' the parish of the church of " *St. Uny near Redruth*; in contradistinction from " Uny-Lelant, of which (as Leland says) 'the " 'toune of Lannant is praty, the church thereof is " 'of St. Unine;' (v. iii. p. 21;) just as we have " the parish and church of Lanteglos juxta Fowey, " and the parish and church of Lanteglos juxta " Camelford. 'Though the parish is now,' Dr. " Pryce himself tells us, 'and has been immemori-

"'ally denominated Redruth; its *real* dedicatory "'name is St. Uny.' The original church, there- "fore, was so dedicated. This shews itself deci- "sively to have been the chapel of Mr. Tonkin, "because *the* chapel stood 'at the bottom of the "'great street near the river,' because the church "is described in old writings as *near* Redruth; and "because the name of Redruth has been almost "invariably referred, and is now found clearly to "refer, to the position of all upon the river. And "so at last Dr. Pryce's dream, of this town claim- "ing 'an evident antiquity prior to any other in the "'county,' is all dissolved into air. The town was "no Roman one. The town was not considerable "enough on the erection of parishes, to be made "the centre of one. It was not even in being then. "The church and parsonage house were erected "*near* the present site of it. They gave occasion "to it. If I am not mistaken, the church was on "the west side of the brook, and perhaps the par- "sonage house on the east. Both drew houses "near them. Yet all was only a village, that took "the name of the parsonage-house, the house on "the channel. And all remained a village, nearly "to the days of Mr. Tonkin."

But whether or no Redruth may be the offspring of the Pagan Druids, or of a Christian chapel, it is

at present a town, if not of surpassing beauty, at least of much intercourse, activity, and population. Situated in the heart of the mining country, it is enriched by a considerable part of the various expenditures connected with these concerns; and in return, spreads through the district all the conveniences and comforts flowing from retail trade. The day we arrived there happened to be one of its three annual fairs; its long street was a crowd from the beginning to the end of it; and the quantity of fine oxen, the breed of the country, exposed for sale, exceeded any thing we had ever seen of the same kind, except the shew at Smithfield, the great carcase mart of the metropolis. Nor let it be forgotten that Redruth claims some respect, particularly from the inhabitants of Cornwall, in being the birthplace of William Pryce, the author of a Treatise on the Minerals, Mines, and Mining of that county;* a book of considerable service, and much practical information; and well deserving a republication, with the addition of those improvements which modern discoveries have introduced into the mining system.

We had flattered ourselves with a morning of much information and amusement at Scorrier House,

* Folio, 1778. London.

the residence of John Williams, esq; which retires from the road to the right, about two miles from Redruth; and though placed in a country naked of picturesque beauty, enjoys, by the judicious management of the grounds around it, and the taste of their plantations, a very agreeable home view. The hospitality of its owner, and the kind politeness of his elder son, had appointed a day for the gratification of our curiosity, in viewing the extensive mineralogical collection of the latter gentleman. A derangement in the plan of our tour brought us to Scorrier House two or three days earlier than the one fixed for our engagement, and we were deservedly punished for our irregularity, by finding, on our arrival there, that both the gentlemen were from home. We felt our disappointment poignantly, which not only robbed us of the pleasure of inspecting a cabinet arranged nearly after the system of Werner, containing all the Cornish minerals in high perfection, and a choice collection of English and foreign productions, but also denied us the satisfaction of a personal interview with its possessor, a gentleman certainly one of the most estimable characters, and probably the best chemist, and most experienced mineralogist, in the West of England.

It was a relief to the eye and to the mind, to exchange the wild and dismal scenery of a great part

part of the country between Redruth and Truro, for the gay, and I may add, elegant appearance of the latter town; which, for extent, regularity, and beauty, may properly be denominated the metropolis of Cornwall. Here all the modes of polished life are visible, in genteel houses, elegant hospitality, fashionable apparel, and courteous manners; and, what adds still more to the respectability of the place, a taste for reading is pretty generally diffused through itself and its neighbourhood, and the "march of mind" accelerated, by a good public library, at the easy subscription of one guinea per annum. It appeared to us to contain between two and three thousand volumes. Science also has its friends here; and we had the opportunity of purchasing excellent Cornish specimens of Mr. Tregoning, an intelligent bookseller of the place, who selects them with judgment, and disposes of them at reasonable prices. To its other advantages Truro unites that of a beautiful situation; being placed at the northern extremity of a creek, connected with Falmouth harbour, and admitting ships of an 100 tons to its quays. From these, immense quantities of tin *coined*, or stamped in town, are exported to the home and foreign markets; as well as copper ore, which is sent into Wales to be manufactured. The adjacent country swells into gentle hills, which

are well wooded, and studded with gentlemen's seats. On a rise of this description to the south of the town, are convenient healthy Barracks for three or four hundred Horse Soldiers; and near them, on a spot equally advantageous, a noble Infirmary, supported by voluntary subscriptions, erected for the reception of those unfortunate miners who experience the various accidents to which their dangerous employment is peculiarly liable.* The church is a most beautiful Gothic fabric, and stands, as every church ought to stand, unconnected with the surrounding buildings, unmixed with incongruous structures, with nothing attached to it to mar the effect of its elegant architecture. The market of Truro, though last not the least of its attractions, is plentiful and cheap; its meat fine, and its fish various and exquisite. The average price of *red mullet* is about a penny per pound. The John Dory too, when in season, (for he is a cannibal, devours the tenants of his own element, and gormandizes on *pilchards*, which spoil his flavour,) may be purchased for a trifle. A friend of ours assured us that he had lately seen two fine ones about three pounds each, exposed in the market for sale. "What is the

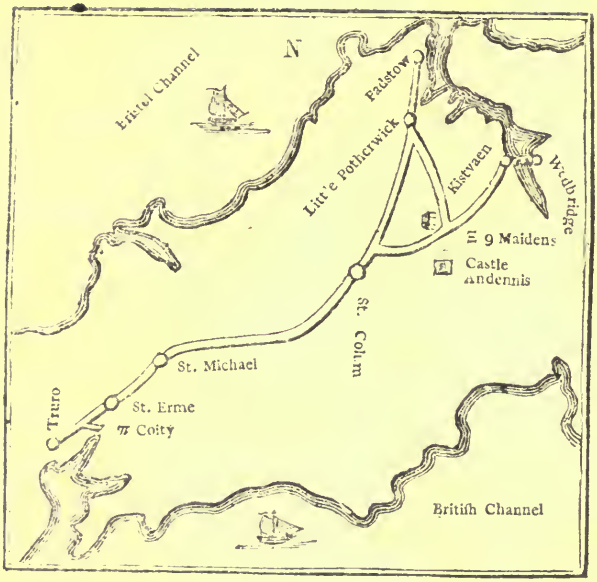
* This was erected in 1799, and opened the 12th of August in that year.

" price of these fish?" said he to the market-woman: ' I cannot, sir, sell the two under *5d.*' " Well," returned he, " if you will carry them to " my home, you shall have your price, and a penny " for your trouble." The offer was accepted, and he had six pounds of John Dory for as many pence.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

R. W.



LETTER VII.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR SIR, *Padstow, Aug.* 20, 1808.

YOU will naturally expect, before I quit the mining country of Cornwall, I should be rather more particular than I have hitherto been on the subject of its Mineralogy ; and enter into some detail of the history of its mining concerns, the system on which they are carried on, and the extensive trade

connected therewith. I shall readily gratify your curiosity to the best of my ability, and think I may venture to promise, that though the subject be of a less amusing nature than others which I have touched upon in the course of my correspondence, it will not altogether be without interest. You must indeed dip with me as deep as Dolcooth, into the mine of antiquarian research; but I trust we shall discover some ore there which may repay us for the trouble of the descent. The chief mineralogical productions of Cornwall, you know, considered as objects of trade and manufacture, are only two, *tin* and *copper;* as the former, however, had been discovered, and formed a branch of commerce, many ages before the latter was known to exist in the country, it will be proper to separate the history of the two, and discuss all that relates to *Tin*, before we pay any attention to the other mineral.

From the writings of ancient authors, both sacred and profane, we learn, that *tin* was known and manufactured several centuries anterior to the Christian epoch. Moses, who flourished 3200 years ago, in enumerating the purification by fire of things that will "abide" that element, makes mention of *tin* amongst the rest.* Homer, who

* Numbers xxxi. 22.

is supposed to have lived 900 years before our æra, speaks of this metal thrice, if I recollect right, in his description of Achilles' shield; first, as one of the metals chosen by Vulcan for the formation of this wonderful piece of armour;

> " In hissing flames huge silver bars are roll'd,
> " And stubborn brass, and tin, and solid gold;*

secondly, (if we receive the poet's idea from his translator,) as a contrivance to *relieve* a dark scene, and thow the representation into perspective;

> " A darker metal mixt entrench'd the place,
> " And pales of glittering tin th' enclosure grac'd;†

and thirdly, as enlivening and diversifying with this bright metal the representation of a group of oxen,

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* Χαλκον δ' εν πυρι βαλλεν ατειρεα, ΚΑΣΣΙΤΕΡΟΝ τε,
Και χρυσον τιμηντα, μαι αργυρον'. Ιλ. Σ. 475.

† Pope's Hom. book xviii. 666. Homer is not so refined here as his translator: he simply says, " Vulcan made a vine-" yard, secured it with *silver pales*, surrounded it with a " ditch of dark metal, and a hedge of tin."

Εστηκει δε καμαξι διαμπερες αργυρεησιν
Αμφι δε κυανεην κατετον, περι δ' ερκος ελασσε
ΚΑΣΣΙΤΕΡΟΥ. Ib. v. 563.

by casting part of them in tin.* Isaiah too, in a prophesy delivered 2500 years since, predicts the future purification of the Jews, under the images of the ALMIGHTY purging away "their dross, and "taking away all their tin;" † and Ezekiel, 100 years after Isaiah, specifies this metal as one of the articles which *Tyre* received from *Tarshish* in return

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* Αι δε βοες χρυσοιο τετευχατο, καστιτεροιο τε. Σ. 574.

Pope's translation misses this opposition of colours in the group, from the use of both gold and tin; all *his* bulls are of gold.

"Here, herds of oxen march, erect and bold,
"Rear high the horns, and seem to low in gold."
xviii. 665.

† Isaiah chap. i. ver. 25. The force and beauty of the latter figure is not generally perceived. The Bishop of Killalla has a good note on the meaning of this passage.

ואסירה כל־בדיליך׃

"Thy *tin*, not *alloy*," says the Bishop, "as Lowth incau-"tiously renders it, for that should not be *taken away*, being "of use to render metals durable; but *tin*, which of all "metals is most hurtful to silver, a very small admixture of "it rendering silver as brittle as glass, and what is worse, "being very hardly separable from it again, if we may believe "Boerhaave; Chemistry by Dallowe, vol. i. p. 25; Park-"hurst."—Bishop of Killalla's translation of Isaiah, 4to note in loc.

for her own exports: "Tarshish was thy merchant, "by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches: "with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy "fairs."* You must not imagine, (however confidently the opinion may have been advanced,) that the tin here spoken of was the production of the Scilly Islands or Cornwall, or that any mercantile intercourse subsisted at such early periods between this part of Britain and the nations above-mentioned. The markets of the East had been supplied, it is true, with this article from Europe; not however from its islands, but its continent, in one part of which alone tin had been found from the earliest antiquity. Lusitania and Galicia, the kingdom of Portugal, and the north-western province of Spain, were the places which produced this valuable metal, probably in no great quantities,† since the price it bore seems to have been very high.‡

* Ezek. xxvii. 12.

† It seems only to have been *stream tin* from Pliny's account. "Interveniunt minuti calculi, maxime torrentibus "siccatis."

‡ Pliny commences the xvith chap. of his 34th book in this manner: "Sequitur natura plumbi. Cujus duo genera, "nigrum atque candidum. Pretiosissimum candidum (*or tin*) "a Græcis appellatum Cassiteron, fabuloseque narratum in

Such was the original tin trade of the world. The metal was found in Spain, transported into Phœnicia, and diffused from Tyre through all the markets of the East and West.* *Tartessus* seems to have been the Spanish port whence it was shipped, the Tarshish of the scriptures,† the Gades‡ of later times, and the Cadiz of the present day. Whatever the trade of Tartessus might have been under its earliest inhabitants, we may be assured it would be greatly increased when the place was

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" insulas Atlantici maris peti, vitilibusque navigiis circum-
" ventis corio advetri. Nunc certum est, in Lusitania gigni et
" in Gallicia."

* " *Sammes* would have the people of Scilly traffick in
" tin with the merchants of Phœnicia *before* the Trojan war;
" as improbable a notion as ever was hatched in the heated
" brain of an antiquary."—Bret. p. 47.

† " Tarshish was thy merchant, &c. Ezek. xxvii. 12.
" תרשיש est Hispania, vel Hispaniæ pars, quam Tyrii max-
" imè frequentabant, Gades nimirum et Tartessus."—Pol. Synop. Crit. in loc. For an account of its trade, see Herod. l. iv. c. 152.

‡ This name seems to have been imposed upon it by the Carthaginians, who sent a colony, to this place; enlarged the old town, or built a new city, and greatly extended its trade. גדר Gadir, sepivit, maceriam murum, vel parietem struxit. Castelli Heptaglotton in verb.

colonized and extended by the Carthaginians, who appear to have made a settlement there several centuries before the birth of CHRIST. These enterprizing mariners were themselves, you know, descended from the greatest merchants of the world, the ancient Tyrians, and carried with them into all their colonies the same spirit that distinguished them at home. No sooner were they established in their new seat on the southern extremity of Spain, than their ships boldly pushed into an ocean untraversed by them before, and roamed over the eastern shores that are washed by the Atlantic sea. After having explored the coasts of Spain, the Bay of Biscay, and the western provinces of France, they would naturally cross the mouth of the British Channel, and discover the Scilly Islands. Here their attention would be immediately caught by the sight of an article (and that too in abundance) which they had hitherto supposed to be produced in Spain alone, and whose exportation from their own city had for a long time formed the most valuable branch of its commerce. In the true spirit of trade, however, resolving still to preserve the monopoly of such a gainful branch of it, they carefully *concealed* their discovery from the rest of the world, and giving a *false account* of the situation of the islands from

whence the market was now supplied with tin,* they took the most cunning as well as effectual method of precluding any interference in their newly-established traffick.† The Greeks, egregious liars themselves, gave implicit credit to every idle story that was told them. They believed this romance of the merchants of Gades, and with their accustomed vanity of giving a Greek name to every place, called the islands from whence the tin came, *Cassiterides*, without as yet having any accurate idea of their local situation.‡ By the assistance of this imposition,

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* "Fabuloseque narratum in insulis Atlantici maris peti." —Pliny, ut supra.

† Πρότερον μεν ουν Φοινικες μονοι την εμπορίαν εσελλον ταυτην εκ των Γαδειρων, κρυπτοντες απασι τον πλουν. Strabo iii. p. 240. Falconer's Oxford edition. Strabo calls them Phœnicians from their being colonists from Carthage, a colony of Tyre.

‡ The discovery of the Scilly Isles must have been made, and the name of Cassiterides imposed upon them, twenty-three centuries ago; as Herodotus, who lived about 450 years before Christ, makes mention of them, though he professes to know nothing more of them than their appellation. Ουτε νησους οιδα κασσιτερίδας ουσας εκ των ὁ κασσιτερος ημιν φοιτα. Thalia 40. "Neither do I know where the Cassiterides are [illegible] we have our tin." The name κασσιτερος seems to have been of Phœnician origin. "Quin Græcum Stanni

the first discoverers of Scilly were enabled to preserve to themselves the monopoly of the Cornish tin trade for three or four ages; I say *Cornish* tin trade, because it cannot be reasonably supposed that such spirited adventurers as they were, inquisitive after gain, and sagacious in discovering new modes of increasing it, should confine their researches to the Scilly Islands alone. The strait that separates these from the main land was, as we have before seen, not more than a mile in breadth; and the probability of finding the same article on the continent of Britain, which they had met with on the islands, would have induced less hardy mariners than the Cadizians to pass the gut, and to pursue their enquiries *there* after the precious metal found so immediately in its neighbourhood. I think we may take it for granted, therefore, that they added the tin produce of Cornwall to that of Scilly, and thus secured for a long period the exclusive enjoyment of one of the most valuable branches of commerce then

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"nomen unde dictæ Cassiterides possit videri Phœniciæ esse "originis, quia Caldæi et Arabes Stannum appellant vocabulis "huic similibus." Sic Num. xxxi. 22. Pro Hebræo בדיל et Græco Κασσιτερος, Jonathan habet קסטירא *Kastira*; et Arab. קודרי *Kasdri*. Geo. Sac. cap. 39.

known.* But the time now approached when others were to participate in these advantages. The Greeks of Phocea had settled at Marseilles; and animated by the same spirit of maritime adventure with the merchants of Gades, they pushed, like them, their naval researches into the Atlantic, and explored the northern parts of this ocean as high up as the 63d degree of latitude. Pytheas of Marseilles was the hardy sailor who accomplished this achievement, and fell in with the Scilly Islands in the course of his voyage. He returned in safety to Marseilles, benefiting his countrymen by the discovery of the secret mart of the Cadizians, and astonishing Southern Europe with an account of the phenomena he had seen, and heard of, in his approach to the Northern pole.† No

* The remotest parts of the civilized world purchased eagerly this useful metal of the Cadizian merchants; giving in exchange for it the precious productions of their own countries. "India neque æs, neque plumbum habet; gem-"mis suis ac margaritis hæc permutat."—Plin. xxiv. 17.

† He mentions the tides of our ocean as rising eighty cubits upon the land; and that at *Thule*, six days sail beyond Britain, the days and nights continued for six months together. "Octogenis cubitis supra Britanniam intumescere "æstus Pythias Massiliensis auctor est."—Plin. l. ii. c. 27. "Solstitii diebus accedente sole proprius verticem mundi, "angusto lucis ambitu, subjecta terræ continuos dies habere

sooner were the Massilian Greeks possessed of the important information, than they took measures to turn it to their immediate advantage. They fitted out a vessel for the trade; one Midacritus had the honour of being named to the command of it, and of thus becoming the first importer into Greece, direct from Scilly, of the tin produced there.*

Such seems to have been the origin of the intercourse of the Greeks with the coast of Cornwall; and we cannot doubt that it was daily improved by the ardour and activity of these enterprizing people. Equally sensible, however, with the Cadizians of the lucrative nature of the commerce in which they had thus accidentally become *participators*, they were equally desirous with them of concealing the source whence it was derived; and though in the bonds of strict alliance with the Romans at Narbonne, yet with the disingenuity natural to rival tradesmen, they withheld from them the secret of their expeditions to Scilly, and con-

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"senis mensibus noctesque e diverso ad Brumam remoto. "Quod fieri in insula Thule, Pythias Massiliensis scripsit, "sex dierum navigatione in Septentrionem a Britannia dis-"tante."—Id. l. ii. c. 75.

* "Plumbum ex Cassiteride insulâ primus opportavit Midacutus."—Plin. vii. 56.

ducted them with a caution that seems even to have prevented any suspicion in their neighbours of the Masselian Greeks being possessed of so gainful a commerce. The Romans, indeed, still continued to imagine that the merchants of Cadiz were the exclusive monopolists of the trade; and determined, if possible, to detect the port whence the tin was brought, they commissioned the captain of one of their vessels to hover at the mouth of the harbour of Cadiz, and watch the course of any ship, which, by pushing into the Atlantic, might appear to be destined for the unknown emporium. The orders were fulfilled, but their object was disappointed by the patriotism of the Cadizian commander. He perceived the Roman vessel following the course of his own, and, guessing her intention, voluntarily drove his own ship into a shallow, on which both his pursuer and himself were wrecked. He, together probably with his crew, escaped; and on his return home, received a compensation from the community for the loss of his freight.* The perseverance of

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* Των δε Ρωμαιων επακολουθουντων ναυκληρω τινι, οπως και αυτοι γνοιεν τα εμπορεια φθονω ο ναυκληρος εκων εις τεναγος εξεβαλε την ναυν· επαγαγων δ' εις τον αυτον ολεθρον και τουτους επομενους αυτος εσωθη δια ναυα ιου και επελαβε δημοσιαν την τιμην ων απεβαλε φορτιων.— Strabo l. iii. in fin.

the Romans, however, were not to be disheartened by a single disappointment; they persisted in their enquiries after the *tin islands*, and a little before the invasion of Cæsar, these researches were crowned with success. After numberless vain attempts, Publius Crassus made the fortunate discovery. He reached the Scilly Islands, inspected their tin mines, and perceiving that the inhabitants worked them only superficially, he taught them the art of mining, as it was practised by the Romans; nay, what is more, he improved their marine, and converted them from the timid coasters of the adjoining shores into hardy mariners, that should boldly conduct their leathern vessels to the wide deep, and cross the British Channel to the continent of Gaul.* Thus instructed and encouraged, the navigators from Scilly soon found their way into Bretanny, and before the descent of Cæsar upon Britain, another people of Europe, in addition to the Romans, the *Veneti* of

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* Οι Ρωμαιοι δε ομως πειρωμενοι πολλακις, εξεμαθον τον πλουν. επειδη και Ποπλιος Κρασσος διαβας επ' αυτας εγνω τα μεταλλα εκ μικρας βαθους ορυττομενα, και τους ανδρας ειρηναιως εκ περιουσιας ηδη την Σαλατλαν εργαζεσθαι, ταυτην τοτε αθελησιν επεδειξε καιπερ ουσαν πλειω της διειργουσης εις την Βρεταννικην. Strabo, ib.

the north-west of France, partook of the profits of the Cornish tin trade.*

As soon as the Romans had thus discovered this valuable traffic, it was an object with them to direct it to the market through other channels than those which had hitherto conducted it thither. The difficulty, danger, and tediousness of a voyage from the Italian seas to the coast of Cornwall were sufficiently obvious to a people whose marine was yet imperfect. They established, therefore, on that part of the coast of France opposite to Britain certain stations or towns, in which the Cornish tin should be disembarked, brought either by the natives of Cornwall in their coracles, or by the Roman vessels employed in the trade. Here the cargoes were landed, and afterwards transported by rivers and other modes of conveyance across the whole of France to Lugdunum, or Lyons, the great Roman emporium in Narbonne. The chief of these stations seems to have been at the mouth of the Seine; a spot fixed upon for the joint convenience of the Romans and Britons. Strabo has pointed out with sufficient precision the particular accommodation that was thus afforded to either party. "The Rhone,"

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† Strabo, lib. quartus. Cæsar de Bell. Gall. iii. 8.

says he, " may be navigated a great way up by " ships of great burthen, and from thence further " up by the rivers Arar and Dubis. At this point " is a carrying-place to the river Sequana or Seine; " and down this river they go to the Lexobii and " Caleti; and thence to the shore of the ocean; " from whence the course into Britain is less than " a day's sail." * From this account we deduce that the Britons had only to bring their tin by land-carriage from Cornwall to that part of their own coast which is opposite the mouth of the Seine, when a voyage short and safe, compared with that across the mouth of the Channel, enabled them, or the merchants who bought it of them, to transport their staple to the place of its destination. This course of conveyance, we find from another ancient writer, they actually established, and fixed on some spot on the back of the Isle of Wight for such a place of exportation to the coast of Gaul. The

* Ο μεν γε Ροδανος πολυν τε εχει τον αναπλων και μεγαλοις φορτιοις, και επι πολλα μερη της χωρας δια το τους εμπιπτοντας ες αυτον ποταμους υπαρχειν πλωτους. και διαδεχεσθαι τον φορτον πλειζον. Ο δ' Αραρ εκδεχεται, και ο Δουβις ο εις τουτον εμβαλλων ειτα πεζευεται μεχρι του Σηκοανα του ποταμου· καντευθεν ηδη κατεφερεται εις τον Ωκεανον, και τους Λιξοβιους και Καδετους. εκ δε τουτων εις την βρεττανικην, ελαττων η ημεροδρομος εστιν. Lib. iv. p. 201.

passage that authorizes this conclusion is preserved to us in Diodorus Siculus. It has been applied, I confess, to other places, but I think, if you take the trouble of weighing what has been said above, you will agree with me, that it can only be considered as referring to that inland carriage of the tin, which is just now supposed to have been settled between Cornwall and the Hampshire coast. "We will "now," says Diodorus, "give some account of the "tin produced in this country. The people who "inhabit a promontory of Britain, called Bolerium, "are exceedingly hospitable and courteous in their "manners, from their intercourse with foreign mer- "chants. They procure the tin by working skil- "fully the ground which produces it. This being "rocky, has earthy fissures, in which they get the "metal, purify it by melting, and cast it into the "form of *Astragals*, (dice-like masses,) and then "carry it to a certain island lying on the coast of "Britain, called Iktis.* When it is low water, the

* "It is a doubt with me whether the original word might "not be *Ict'n*, as being in all probability British, and having "no connection with the accusative case of the Greek lan- "guage. It may be thought too fanciful, perhaps, to derive "the word *tin*, under this idea, from the above name." *Maton.* We have the very name in the Chaldee טין tin, *Lutum*,

" intermediate space being dry, they carry the tin " thither in carts, in a great quantity. There the " merchants buy it of the natives, and carry it into " Gaul." †

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mud, probably from its being found in the beds of rivers. The same name designates an earth dug up in Egypt. Vide Castelli Heptaglotton, in verb. *Warner.*

† Νυν δε περι τε καλ' αυτην φυομενε κασσιτερε διεξιμεν, της γαρ βρετΐανικης κατα το ακρωτηριον το καλεμενον βελεριον οι κατοικουντες φιλοξενοι τε διαφερουτως εισι, και δια την των ξενων εμπορων επιμιξιαν εξημερωμενοι τας αγωγας. Ουτοι τον κασσιτερον κατασκευαζουσι, φιλοτεχνας εργαζομενοι την φερουσαν αυτον γην, αυτη δε πετρωδης ουσα διαφυεις εχει γεωδεις, εν αις τον πορον κατεργαζομενοι, και τηξαντες καθαιρουσιν αποτυπουντες δ' εις αστραγαλων ευθμους κομιζουσιν εις τινα νησον προκειμενην μεν της βρετΐανικης ονομαζομενην δε Ικριν. Καταγαρ τας αμπωτεις αναξηραινομενε τε μεταξυ τοπε ταις αμαξαις εις ταυτην κομιζουσι δαψιλη τον κασσιτερον.—Εντευθεν δε οι εμποροι παρα των εγχωριων ανουνται, και διακομιζουσιν εις την Γαλατιαν.—Diod. Sic. lib. v. p. 301. Borlase has treated the idea of this inland carriage of the tin by the Britons to the Isle of Wight with ridicule; but there are exceptions to Horace's rule,

- - - - - - - - - - - " Ridiculum acri,
" Fortius et melius magnas plerumque secat res;

and ridicule is *not* always the test of truth. Dr. Maton too, is of a different opinion respecting the interpretation of this passage of Diodorus. " It was to St. Michael's Mount that " the Greek merchants traded for the Cornish tin, according

As soon as the Romans became completely masters of Britain, they would of course engross the whole of the tin trade. The Cornish mining system

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" to Diodorus, though by some the Isle of Wight has been " considered as the *Ictis* of that historian. The latter idea " is supported by the supposition that the isle was once a " peninsula, otherwise indeed there cannot be the slightest " reason for imagining that Diodorus's account is applicable " to that spot. ' Let us now,' he says, ' make some mention " ' of the tin produced in it (*Britain*). Those who live " ' about a promontory of Britain called *Bolerium* are remark- " ' ably hospitable, and, on account of their intercourse with " ' foreign merchants, courteous in their manners. They " ' prepare the tin by properly working the ground that " ' produces it. This (*ground*) being rocky contains earthy " ' fissures, the produce whereof they purify by working and " ' melting. When they have cut it into pieces in the form " ' of dice, they carry it to a certain island lying off (*the* " ' *coast of*) Britain, called *Ictis*. At the ebb of the sea, the " ' intermediate space being dry, they carry thither a great " ' quantity of tin in carts.' Afterwards he informs us that " here the merchants buy it of the natives, and carry it " into Gaul. Sir Richard Worsley (in his *History of the* " *the Isle of Wight*) and Mr. Warner (in his *Topographical* " *Remarks on Hampshire*) urge several arguments to prove " that there was once a passage similar to that alluded to by " Diodorus from the coast near Lymington to the opposite " part of the island: and yet Ptolemy, the geographer, who " wrote but a short time after the historian, expressly calls

also would be quickly improved by all the inventions and processes which these ingenious people were in possession of; and the Britons would begin to

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" it Νησος Ουηκλις, or *the Island of Vectis*. Besides, the " Land's-End is universally allowed to be the *Bolerium*, or " *Bellerium*, of the ancients, which renders Diodorus's de- " scription most unequivocally applicable, in my opinion, " to St. Michael's Mount." Had this elegant author recollected that in the time of Diodorus, St. Michael's Mount stood *six miles within the land*, he would probably have hesitated in giving this opinion. The passages alluded to by Dr. Maton, in my Topographical Remarks, are as follow:

" That Diodorus spoke of this island under the name of " *Ictis*, I cannot doubt; since the tin staple was certainly " removed prior to his time from the Cassiterides, or Scilly " Islands, to the Roman Vectis, or Isle of Wight. The Phœ- " nicians, the first traders to our country, most probably " directed their course immediately to the westward extre- " mity of Britain, the spot which produced the object of " their traffick; but when the Greeks of Marseilles (and, " I should have added, the Romans of Narbonne) began " to share this commerce with them, and afterwards to " monopolize it, they removed the staple from the distant " and tempestuous seas of the Belerian coasts to the Isle of " Wight, a spot much more commodious for the purposes of " trade, inasmuch as it was nearer to the shores of Gaul. " The following observations will confirm what has been " said; they were made by a gentleman of the Island, " and are adduced by Sir Richard Worsley, to support the

apply that metal to their own domestic purposes, which had hitherto only been useful to them as an article of commerce. We accordingly find, that

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" *tradition* of its ancient connection with the coast of " Hampshire; and to corroborate the fact mentioned by " historians, of the intervening strait being formerly passable " to carriages and men. At each extremity of the channel " between the island and Hampshire, the tide rushes in and " out with such impetuosity, as to render those parts the " deepest and most dangerous; whereas near the mid way, " where the tides meet, though the conflict makes a rough " water, according as the wind may assist the one or the " other, there is no rapidity of current to carry away the " soil, and deepen the bottom; accordingly we discover a " hard gravely beach there, extending a great way across " the channel, a circumstance not to be found in any other " part of it. Corresponding with this, on the Hampshire " side, is a place called *Leap*, possibly from the narrow- " ness of the pass; and on the Isle of Wight, opposite this, " is a strait open road, called Rew-street, (probably from " the French word *Rue*, to which the translation of it might " be afterwards added.) This road, after having crossed " the forest, may be traced, by an observant eye, from St. " Austin's gate to the west of Carisbrook Castle, over a " field called *North-field*, by *Street*, &c. on to the south " side of the island. Many parts of this road are of little " or no use at this time, and unless it was heretofore used " for the purpose of conveying tin, it is not easy to conjec- " ture what purpose it was to answer. To the above par-

they formed it into various culinary and ornamental utensils; and some pitchers, cups, and basins, are still extant, made at this period by the Britons,

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" ticulars I have to add, that the ancient road or way (of " which this one in the island above spoken of was only a " continuation) directed its course in its progress to the " Isle of Wight, through a river at Bossington, a village in " the south of Hampshire; from the bed of which river, " exactly on the scite of the ancient road, was taken up, " as I am informed, not long since, a large metallic mass, " which, on inspection, appeared to be *tin*. Allowing then " this hypothesis to be true, that the *Ictis* of antiquity and " the Isle of Wight are the same; and that the intervening " strait was a common foot (and carriage) road for the " ancient Britons, the circumstance of tin being discovered " on the spot above-mentioned is not extraordinary, since " it might easily have been dropped, and overlooked by the " carriers who were employed to carry it to the place of " exportation;—whereas, if we disallow these facts, it will be " difficult to for many reasonable or satisfactory conjecture " respecting the means by which it could come into this sin- " gular situation." Vol. ii. p. 5. It may be useful here to add, that an uniform tradition has long subsisted in the Isle of Wight, and the opposite coast of Hampshire, that they were anciently united together, without any intermediate sea between them. Nennius reports, that this tradition subsisted in his time, twelve centuries ago; and adds, that the sepation of the two gave the island its present name, that of Guith, or Wit, a British word, signifying a rent, or separation. Apud Galei scriptores, tom. i.

instructed thus by their Roman masters.* They also acquired the art of coating brazen vessels with it, in order to prevent the pernicious or unpleasant taste of the latter metal; † and proceeding still further in the art of metallurgy, they incorporated so completely tin and brass together, as to produce the combination that is now called bell-metal.‡

As long as the Romans continued to be masters of Britain, so long the Cornish tin trade appears to have been conducted in the manner above-mentioned; and even after their departure from Britain, and during the æra of the Saxon irruptions into this country, as Cornwall was but little exposed to the fury of their invaders, it is probable that the inhabitants of it still furnished the continent with a quantity of their native metal. Cornwall was conquered by Athelstan; but such was the confusion of Eng-

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* Philosophical Transactions, 1759, part i. p. 13.

† Pliny, xxiv. c. 17.

‡ Plin. xxiv. c. 17. It will be seen that in the above account of the ancient tin trade of Cornwall, I differ from Borlase, Pryce, and even Whitaker. I however confess myself much indebted to the last learned writer for many lights and assistances on this dark and perplexed subject.—See Supplement to Polwhele's Hist. Corn.

land at that period, from the incursions of the Danes, that all the arts of peace, and mining amongst the rest, must have been for a time interrupted if not destroyed; nor does it appear that the Cornish people pursued the search of tin with any vigour, till the kingdom was again in some degree settled by the Norman conquest. The Normans were an active and industrious race. They soon turned their attention to the improvement of their acquisition; and amongst other objects of importance set themselves seriously to work and improve the tin-mines of Cornwall. From this period, where we get upon the solid ground of written record, and leave the regions of hypothesis, the history of the tin trade, and the regulations of the mining system, as far as they relate to that article, cannot be given in better words, or in a clearer manner, than they are by Dr. Borlase. "In the time of King "John," says he, "I find the product of tin in this "county very inconsiderable, the right of working "for tin being as yet wholly in the king, (King "John being at this time also Earl of Cornwall,) "the property of the tinners precarious and unset-"tled, and what tin was raised was engrossed and "managed by the Jews to the great regret of the "barons and their vassals. The tin-farm of Corn-"wall at this time amounted to no more than one

" hundred marks, according to which valuation the " Bishop of Exeter received then in lieu of his " tenth part, and still receives from the Duke of " Cornwall annually the sum of *6l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* so low " were the tin profits then in Cornwall, whereas in " Devonshire the tin was then set to farm for 100*l.* " yearly. King John, sensible of the languishing " state of this manufacture, granted the county of " Cornwall some marks of his favour, disforested " what part of it was then subject to the arbitrary " forest law, allowing it equal title to the laws of " the kingdom with the other parts of England, " and is said to have granted a charter to the tin- " ners (Carew, p. 17), but what it was does not " appear.

" In the time of his son Richard, king of the " Romans and earl of Cornwall, the Cornish mines " were immensely rich, and the Jews being farmed " out to him by his brother Henry III. what inte- " rest they had was at his disposal: at the same " time the tin-mines in Spain were stopped from " working by the Moors, and no tin being as yet " discovered in Germany, Cornwall had all the " trade of Europe for tin, and the earl the almost " sole profit of that trade. This prince is said to " have made several tin-laws; but matters soon " declining into disorder, where the prince has too

" much, and the subjects little or nothing, and the " Jews being banished the kingdom in the eighteenth " of Edward I. the mines were again neglected, for " want of proper encouragement to labour, and " security to enjoy and dispose of the products of " that labour; which the gentlemen of Blackmoor " (lords of seven tithings, best stored at that time " with tin) perceiving (Carew, p. 17), addressed " themselves to Edmund earl of Cornwall, (son of " Richard king of the Romans, &c.) and obtained " from him, confirmed by his own seal, a charter " with more explicit grants of the privileges of " keeping a court of judicature, holding plea of all " actions, (life, limb, and land excepted,) of mana- " ging and deciding all stannary causes, of holding " parliaments at their discretion, and of receiving, " as their own due and property, the toll-tin, that " is, one-fifteenth of all tin raised. At this time " also, as it seems to me, the rights of *bounding* or " dividing tin-grounds into separate portions for the " encouragement of searching for tin, were either " first appointed, or at least more regularly adjusted " than before, so as that the labouring tinner might " be encouraged to seek for tin by acquiring a pro- " perty in the lands where he should discover it, " and that the farm-tin acquired by the bounder,

" and the toll-tin, which was the lord's share,
" might remain distinct and inviolated. For the
" better promotion of tin-working in all waste and
" uninclosed grounds, every tinner had leave to
" place his labour in searching for tin; and when
" he had discovered tin, (after due notice given in
" the stannary court to the lord of the soil, and for-
" mally registering the intended bounds without
" opposition or denial,) he might, and at this time
" still may, mark out the ground in which he should
" chuse to pursue his discovery, by digging a small
" pit at each angle of such wasteral, which pits are
" called *bounds*; by this means he did acquire a right
" in all future workings of such grounds, either to
" work himself, or set others to work upon his own
" terms, reserving to the lord of the soil one fifteenth
" part of all tin raised therein. In Devonshire,
" ' the tinners constitution (says Mr. Carew, p. 14)
" ' enables them to dig for tin in any man's ground
" ' inclosed or uninclosed, without license, tribute,
" ' or satisfaction;' which infraction of common
" property shews that the constitution of the stan-
" naries was never equitably established in that
" county, as the same judicious author observes.
" These pits, all bounders, by themselves or others,
" are obliged to renew every year, by cutting the

" turf and cleaning up the dirt and rubbish which " falls into them, to the intent that such land- " marks may not be obliterated. In consideration " of these privileges so granted by charter, the gen- " tlemen tinners obliged themselves to pay unto " Edmund and his successors Earls of Cornwall, the " sum of four shillings for every hundred weight of " white tin, a very high duty at the time it was laid " on, the tinners of Devonshire then paying but " eight-pence for every hundred weight of tin; and " that the payment of this tax might be the better " secured, it was agreed, that all tin should be " brought to places purposely appointed by the " prince, there weighed, coined, and kept, till the " Earl of Cornwall's dues were paid. To this " charter there was a seal with a pick-axe and shovel " in soltire, (says Carew, page 17), as he was " informed by a gentleman who had seen this char- " ter, though in Carew's time it was not extant.

" In the thirty-third of Edward I. this charter of " Edmund seems to have been confirmed, and the tin- " ners of Cornwall were made a distinct body from " those of Devonshire; whereas before, the tinners " of both counties were accustomed to meet on " Hengston-Hill every seventh or eight year to con- " cert the common interest of both parties. Two " coinages yearly, viz. at Midsummer and Michael-

" mas, were also granted by this charter, and the tin-
" ners had the liberty of selling each man his own tin,
" unless the king insisted on buying it himself.

" A farther explanation of the Cornish privileges
" and laws was made by the fiftieth of Edward III.
" (Carew, p, 17,) and their liberties confirmed and
" enlarged by parliament in the eighth of Richard
" II. third of Edward IV. first of Edward VI.
" first and second of Philip and Mary, and in the
" second of Elizabeth; and the whole society of the
" tinners of Cornwall, till then reckoned as one
" body, was divided into four parts, called from the
" places of the principal tin-workings of that time,
" Fawy-moor, Black-moor, Trewarnheyl, and Pen-
" with. One general Warden* was constituted to
" do justice in law and equity with an appeal from
" his decision to the Duke of Cornwall in Council
" only, or for want of a Duke of Cornwall to the
" crown.

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* " The Lord-warden appoints a Vice-warden to determine
" all stannary disputes every month: he constitutes also four
" stewards, (one for each of the four stannary precincts before
" mentioned,) who hold their courts every three weeks, and
" decide by juries of six persons, with an appeal reserved to
" the Vice-warden, thence to the Lord-warden, thence
" finally to the Lords of the Prince's Council."

" Thus continued the tin establishment till the " reign of Henry VII. when Arthur, eldest son of " that king, and consequently Duke of Cornwall, " made certain constitutions relating to the stanna- " ries, which the tinners refused to observe, and " indulging themselves in other irregularities not " consistent with their charters, Henry VII. after " his son Arthur's death, seized their charter " as forfeited; but upon proper submission, by " his own new charter restored all their former pri- " vileges, and enlarged them with this honourable " and important addition, that no law relating to the " tinners, should be enacted without the consent of " twenty-four gentlemen tinners, six to be chosen " by a mayor and council in each of the stannary " divisions. This charter was confirmed by the " twentieth of Elizabeth, and (it being found incon- " venient that the consent of the whole twenty-four " should be required) it is declared at the meeting " of every convocation or parliament of tinners, " that the consent of sixteen stannators shall be " sufficient to enact any law. Accordingly, when " any more than ordinary difficulties occur, and either " new laws for the better direction of the tinners and " their affairs, or a more explicit declaration and " enforcement of the old ones become necessary, " the Lord-warden, by commission from the Duke

" of Cornwall, or from the Crown, if there be no
" duke, issues his precept to the four principal
" towns of the stannary districts, viz. Lanceston for
" Fawy-moor, Lostwythiel for Black-moor, Truro
" for Trewarnheyl, and Helston for Penwith.
" Each town chuses six members, and the twenty-
" four so chosen, called Stannators, constitute the
" parliament of tinners. In the reign of Elizabeth,
" Sir Walter Raleigh being Lord-warden, the tin-
" ners perceiving that by the charter of Henry VII.
" no law could be enacted, unless the full number of
" twenty-four stannators concurred, proposed that
" twenty-four other stannators should be chosen, six
" at each of the tin-courts holden for each stannary,
" returned by the steward and added to the former
" number, in order to make forty-eight members;
" and that the majority of that number, or as many
" as should assemble of that number, should be
" enabled to make laws. This proposal did not take
" effect; but in the twenty-sixth of Charles II. 1674,
" some terms and claims insisted upon by the Crown
" meeting with great opposition, the stannators,
" being under difficulties, named to the then Vice-
" warden six persons for each stannary, and desired
" they might be summoned by the Vice-warden to
" meet and consult with that convocation. Since
" that time it is usual, but not necessary, for every
" stannator to name an assistant, and the twenty-

" four assistants are a kind of standing council, and " assemble in a different apartment, and are at hand " to inform their principals of calculations, difficul- " ties, and the state of things among the lower " class of tinners, such as the stannators might not " otherwise be so well acquainted with. The stan- " nators, for the more orderly dispatch of business, " chuse their speaker, and present him to the Lord- " warden to be approved. Whatever is enacted by " this body of tinners, must be signed by the stan- " nators, the Lord-warden, (or his deputy, the Vice- " warden, who presides in his absence,) and after- " wards either by the Duke of Cornwall or the " sovereign; and when thus passed, has all the " authority, with regard to tin affairs, of an act of " the whole legislature."

Although tin may be said to have become an object of secondary consideration in Cornwall, since the discovery of its copper mines, yet this branch of trade still continues to be very lucrative to the county. The annual sales of tin from it at present amount to 300,000*l.* and the number of mines and stream-works, small and great, are between one and two hundred.* Of these, the largest and most pro-

* Tin is found either collected and fixed, or loose and detached; in the first case, it is either accumulated in a *lode*,

ductive are, Huel Unity, and Poldice, in Gwennap; Cook's Kitchen, in Illogan; Trevennen, near Helston; Rosewall Hill, near St. Ives; and Botallack, near St. Just. They produce upon an average from 600*l.* to 800*l.* worth of tin per month each. To these more important mines may be added the stream work at Carnan, four miles from Truro, which yields about 8000*l.* worth of tin annually.*

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or in a floor, or interspersed in grains and bunches, in the natural rock: in the second and more dispersed state, it is found either in single separate stones, called *shodes*; or in a continued course of such stones, called the Benheyl or *Stream:* or lastly, in an arenaceous pulverized state. The *streams* are of different breadths, seldom less than a fathom; oftentimes scattered, though in different quantities, over the whole width of the moor, bottom, or valley, in which they are found; and when several such streams meet, they oftentimes make a very rich *floor* of tin, one stream proving as it were a magnet to the metal of the other. *Borlase's Nat. Hist.* The streams are found at the distance of a furlong or more from the veins or lodes to which they originally belonged; and from which the masses have been accidentally separated by some operation of nature, washed or rolled from their original situation, and accumulated together in some adjoining lower level.

* The number of men employed in the tin mines is very considerable; but in no one mine much above 150; and from that number down to only two men. Many women and

It is generally supposed that tin lodes are of an earlier formation than veins of copper ore, and the hypothesis receives some confirmation of its truth from the following fact: that if a *shift* or movement of the earth have taken place where a tin and copper lode intersect each other, the former is often removed several fathoms from its original position, whilst the latter continues its regular course or direction.†

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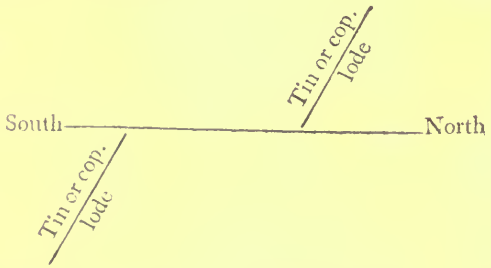
children also find means of livelihood in preparing the ore after it is raised.

† Miners also meet with veins nearly perpendicular, called *cross-courses,* composed of quartz and clay, which take a direction from north to south, and of course intersect the copper and tin lodes, which are from east to west; and sometimes one end is removed as far as forty fathoms north or south from the other, though no appearance of movement is observable at the surface.



In these cross courses are found detached pieces of the tin or copper lodes, and particularly between the separated parts. These masses are entirely similar to what is raised from the lode so separated.

" The indications of the presence of a *lode*,"* Dr. Maton observes, " in a particular spot are vari-
" ous. The most general are either a barren
" patch and a partial deficiency of vegetation, (but
" this can happen only when a lode is near the
" surface of the ground,) or scattered fragments of
" ore, called *shodes*, when they lie contiguous to a
" substance of primitive formation, such as granite,
" quartz, killas, &c.—or a metallic, harsh taste in
" springs and rills. But by whatever accident or
" method a lode be discovered, the leave of the
" lord of the soil must be obtained before any
" workings are commenced. On a waste, or com-
" mon, indeed, any one has a right to set up
" bounds, or in other words, to take possession of
" a spot, and the bounder's consent is as necessary
" to adventurers as the lord's in the former case.
" The lord's share of the profits (which is called
" his *dish*) is generally one sixth, or one eighth,
" clear of cost; the shares of the adventurers de-
" pend on their original contributions and engage-
" ments.

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* " A *lode* is a crack, or fissure, (in the earth,) containing a
" metallic substance which may be conceived to have insinu-
" ated itself, as it were, into it, like the sparry matter of
" *Ludus Helmontii* into the cracks of the clay.

" In digging a mine, the three material points to " be considered are the removal of the barren rock, " or rubbish, the discharge of water, (which abounds " more or less in every mine,) and the raising of the " ore. Difficulties of course increase with depth, " and the utmost aid of all the mechanical powers " is sometimes ineffectual when the workings are " deep and numerous. Mountains and hills are " dug with the most convenience, because drains " and adits may be cut to convey the water at once " into the neighbouring valleys. These adits are " sometimes continued to the distance of one or two " miles, and, though the expense is so very con- " siderable, are found a cheaper mode of getting " rid of the water than by raising it to the top, " especially when there is a great flow and the mine " very deep. It seldom happens, however, that a " level is to be found near enough for an adit to be " made to it from the *bottom* of a mine; recourse " must be had to a steam-engine, by which the " water is brought up to the adit, be the height of " it what it may. As soon as a shaft is sunk to " some depth, a machine called a *whim* is erected, " to bring up either rubbish or ore, which is pre- " viously broken into convenient fragments by pick- " axes and other instruments. The whim is com- " posed of a perpendicular axis, on which turns a

" large hollow cylinder, of timber (called the *cage*),
" and around this a rope (being directed down the
" shaft by a pulley fixed perpendicularly at the
" mouth of it) winds horizontally. In the axis a
" transverse beam is fixed, at the end of which two
" horses or oxen are fastened, and go their rounds,
" hauling up a bucket (or *kibbul*) full of ore, or
" rubbish, whilst an empty one is descending. The
" ore is blown out of the rock by means of gun-
" powder. When it is raised out of the mine, it is
" divided into as many shares (or *doles*) as there
" are lords and adventurers, and these are measured
" out by barrows, an account of which is kept by a
" person who notches a stick. Every mine enjoys
" the privilege of having the ore distributed on
" the adjacent fields. It is generally pounded
" or stamped on the spot in the stamping mill;
" if full of slime, it is thrown into a pit called a
" *buddle*, to render the stamping the more free
" without choaking the grates. If free from
" slime, the ore is shovelled into a kind of sloping
" canal of timber, called the *pass*, whence it slides
" by its own weight, and the assistance of a small
" stream of water, into the box where the lifters
" work. The lifters are raised by a water wheel,
" and they are armed at the bottom with large
" masses of iron, (perhaps one hundred and forty

" pounds in weight,) which pound or stamp the ore " small enough for its passage through the holes of " an iron grate fixed in one end of the box. To " assist its attrition, a rill of water keeps it constantly " wet, and it is carried by a small gutter into the " *fore pit* where it makes its first settlement, the " lighter particles running forward with the water " into the *middle pit*, and thence into the third, " where what is called the slime settles. From " these pits they carry the ore to the keeve, when " it is quite washed from all its filth, and rendered " clean enough for the smelting-house."

The tin being thus prepared for melting, it is carried to works constructed for this operation, and delivered to the melter, who is paid for the labour and expense of this process, not in money, but by receiving about eight parts out of twenty of the quantity melted. Here it is assayed, to determine its quality, then fused, and run into moulds of an oblong form, containing about 300lb. weight of metal each. When sufficiently cooled, the masses are taken out of the moulds, and (under the name of blocks of tin) carried to the coinage towns to be coined.* This process, which takes place at stated

* These towns are Liskeard, Lostwithiel, Truro, Helston, and Penzance.

seasons of the year, is performed by the Prince of Wales's officers, (as Duke of Cornwall,) who cut off a mass from the corner of each block, (about a quarter of a pound in weight,) and then stamp it with the seal of the dutchy, and the initials of the house of the smelter, both as a permission to sell, and as an assurance to the purchaser that the tin is unadulterated. The duty of this authentication is 4*s.* in the hundred weight, forming a principal part of the Cornish revenue of the Prince of Wales. The blocks are then carried to the different ports, and shipped off for London or Bristol.*

You will be glad to find that I do not mean to detain you so long on the subject of *Copper*, as I have on that of *Tin*. Happily for you, there is here no *ignis fatuus* to lead us a dance into the dimly-discovered regions of antiquity; no delightful passage in an old Greek or Latin author, to amuse our fancy, or exercise our philology. The history of Cornish copper is as a mushroom of last night compared with that of its tin. Lying deep below the surface of the earth, it would be concealed from the enquiries of human industry, till

* A considerable quantity of tin used to be shipped for the Levant. It was smelted into bars about two feet and a half long, flat, and of a finger's breadth.

such time as natural philosophy had made considerable progress, and the mechanical arts had nearly reached their present state of perfection.* Accordingly we do not find that any regular researches were made for copper ore in Cornwall, till the latter end of the fifteenth century, when a few adventurers worked in an imperfect manner some insignificant mines, probably with little use to the public, and little profit to themselves. Half a century afterwadrs, in the reign of Elizabeth, though the product of the mines would be naturally greater than before, from the increased industry of the people, and the improved state of the arts, yet little advantage seems to have been derived to the county of Cornwall at large from the working of its copper. Mr. Carew hints at the small profits made from it in his time, and assigns as a cause of it the ignorance in which the mine proprietors were kept by the merchants, with respect to the uses and application of the metal.† In the next reign, however, all this mystery was dispersed; the mines were inspected, their

* Tin in Cornwall seldom runs deeper than fifty fathom below the surface. Good copper is rarely found at a *less* depth than that.

† Borlase's Natural History, p. 204.

value determined, and a system of working them to greater advantage introduced. This was effected by the vigilance of Mr. Norden, (Cornish surveyor to the Prince of Wales,) who, having observed that certain artful practices were adopted to conceal the real value of the copper produced from the mines, wrote a letter to King James I. communicating the frauds, and recommending that means might be adopted to prevent them in future.* The general confusion, however, into which the kingdom was thrown in the time of Charles I. checked the copper mines of Cornwall; nor were they characterized by peculiar activity and proportionate profit till after the Revolution; when a company of gentlemen from Bristol paying a visit of speculation to them, made a general purchase of their produce at various prices, from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* per ton. The bargain proved to be highly advantageous to the purchasers, a secret that quickly transpired; and induced another company from the same place, a few years afterwards, to covenant with some of the principal Cornish miners to purchase all their copper ores, at a stated low price, for a certain term of years. This free demand would naturally sharpen the attention, and

* Pryce's Mineralogy of Cornwall, p. 287.

spur the industry, of the mine proprietors; their views began to extend, and prospects of great fortune to open upon them; though it is strange to add, such was still the backward state of mineralogy, that the yellow copper ore, which is at present so valuable, was at the time above-mentioned considered of no importance, called *poder*, (that is, dust,) and put aside as mundic.* In the reign of George I. the Cornish mining system in general, and particularly as it related to copper, was considerably improved. A Mr. John Costar was the person to whom the county is indebted in this respect. Being an excellent metallurgist, and a good natural philosopher and mechanic, he undertook the draining of some considerable mines, and executed the attempt with success. He then introduced a new system of dressing and assaying the ore, improved upon the old machinery, and invented additional engines. In short, he seems to have given a new character to the copper concerns of Cornwall; and been the father of many of the processes which render them so profitable as they at present are. The state of the copper market from this period for the next fifty years will evince the importance, in a national as well as provincial point of view, to which it had

* Borlase's Natural History, p. 207.

then attained. "The quantity of ore sold from "1726 inclusive, to the end of 1735, was 64,800 "tons, at an average price of 7*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* per ton, "amounting to 473,500*l.* which must have been "yearly 47,350*l.* From 1736 inclusive, to the "end of 1745, 75,520 tons of copper ore were "sold at 7*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* average price, the amount "560,106*l.* in the gross, and 56,010*l.* yearly. From "1746 inclusive, to the end of 1755, the quantity "sold was 98,790 tons, at 7*l.* 8*s.* the ton, the "amount 731,457*l.*; annually 73,145*l.* From "1756 inclusive, to the end of 1765, the quantum "sold made 169,699 tons, at the average price of "7*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* amounting to the sum of 1,243,045*l.* "and 124,304*l.* yearly. Lastly, from 1766 to the "end of 1777, 264,273 tons of copper ore were "disposed of at 6*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* per ton, amounting "in all to 1,778,337*l.* which must have returned "177,833*l.* every year of the last ten."*

The quantity of copper ore, however, raised annually since the time when the above account closes, has been larger in every successive year till 1808, when the diminution of the demand lowered the price, and lessened, of course, the number of specu-

* Pryce's Mineralogy, introduct. p. xi. xii.

lations. The following schedule of the productions of four recent years, in copper ore, fine metal, and the sums for which it sold, will afford an interesting view of this branch of the trade of Cornwall, immediately previous to its late check.*

	Copper Ore		Fine Copper		£.
1803 -	54,381 tons,	containing	5,351	sold for	560,144
1804 -	64,597 - - - - -		5,373 - - -		571,123
1805 -	80,043 - - - - -		6,416 - - -		868,295
1807 -	73,405 - - - - -		6,827 - - -		630,267

* There is something very peculiar in the manner in which the bargains are made between the buyer and seller, in the disposal of the ore. The former consists of a certain number of companies, (at present, I believe, of twelve or thirteen,) who purchase from the adventurers all the copper raised in Cornwall. Previous to every sale, which always takes place once a month, a certain proportion, called a *sample*, is taken from every different lot to be disposed of, by men appointed for the purpose, called samplers, and prepared for the inspection of the agents of the companies, who, a fortnight before the day of sale, carefully examine the same, report to their principals the worth of the lots, and receive their directions as to the price they are to offer for the same. Thus instructed, on the monthly *ticket ng* day, as it is called, they meet the proprietors of the mines, or their agents, either at some neighbouring inn, or in a commodious room fitted up for the purpose on the works, where a splendid dinner is

Though the present depression in the Cornish copper trade may obviously be attributed in a great measure to the blasting influence of a long protracted

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provided, at the expense of the proprietors, in proportion to the magnitude of their different lots. After the cloth is removed, the agent for each company delivers in his *ticket*, containing the different prices which he has to offer for the different lots of ore exposed for sale. This ticket is a sheet of printed paper, divided into as many perpendicular columns as there are companies, with an additional one, standing before the others, for the specification of the several lots for sale, the mines in which they are raised, and the quantity of which they consist. The head of every column has the printed name of some particular company, and the whole of it is filled up by the agent of this company, with the prices he, on the behalf of his employers, has to offer for the lots; which prices are specified in a regular range from the top to the bottom of the external column, standing respectively against the different lots. Having delivered these schedules in, which contain the ultimatum of their offers, they are then compared with each other, and the bidders of the highest prices are immediately declared the purchasers of the several lots. Should however the same price be offered for the same lot, by two or more bidders, it is then equally divided between the rivals. All this business is transacted in silence, and with dispatch; so that bargains for 20,000*l.* worth of copper ore are compleated in the course of half an hour, without a single word being spoken on the subject of the sale or purchase.

war, yet it must not be concealed, that it is partly attributable also to the two following causes: the increased produce of the Cornish mines, and the large importations of foreign copper.

The very high price to which the metal had risen, both induced and enabled the miners to speculate more largely than they had been accustomed hitherto to do. The consequence of this was, a supply more than sufficient for all the demands of the British market; and a fall in the price of the ore naturally followed. Unfortunately for Cornwall, just at the period of this depression, very large quantities of copper from South-America were taken by the British cruizers, and the prizes brought to England; whilst at the same time, or shortly after, considerable importations of the same article arrived from Lima, and other places in South-America, the speculations of British merchants to these parts under licenses from the English and Spanish governments. Such a combination of circumstances would of course influence the home price of copper, and it actually experienced an immediate reduction; though as they were mostly accidental, and as they had the effect of suspending the working of several mines, the proprietors flatter themselves with the expectation that the price of Cornish copper will again *look up*, (to use a mining phrase,) and this, like every other

article, again find itslevel, as soon as the effects of this unnatural glut shall have passed away.

It is unnecessary for me to enumerate the different species of copper which the mines of Cornwall afford; it may be sufficient to say, that you here find every variety of this ore, except *muriat of copper*, which as yet has been discovered only in South-America. I have before observed that of all the Cornish copper works, Dolcooth is the largest; though many of them employ six hundred men, besides a large tribe of women and children. The principal mines now at work are as follow: Huel Damsel, Huel Unity, Poldice, the Consolidated Mines, Huel Fortune, Huel Jewel, and Huel Gorland, in Gwennap; Huel Towan, in St. Agnes; Dolcooth, in Camborn; Huel Fanny, and Cook's Kitchen, in Illogan; Godolphin, and Benner Downs, in Breage and Crowan; Huel Alfred, near Heyl; and Penberthy Crofts, and West Huel Fortune, near Marazion.

Before I quit the subject of Cornish Mineralogy, I must detain you a little longer with a few particulars respecting the other metallic productions of this curious county.

Gold is found *native* in Cornwall, but in such small quantities as not to deserve the attention of the owners of the mines. The workmen take it as their

perquisite, and sell the specimens to collectors. The value of the whole annual produce seldom reaches 100*l.* The Carnan and other *stream* tin works (for it has never appeared in any of the lodes) are the only places which produce it; where it is discovered in grains from the size of fine sand to masses (though very rarely) worth three or four guineas a piece. It is sometimes mixed with quartz.

Silver also is produced in Cornwall. The largest quantity ever found of this metal was raised in Herland copper mine, about ten years ago; and might be worth between 6 or 700*l.* It was dug up at the depth of 100 fathoms, in a lode which intersected the copper vein nearly at right angles. About fifteen years since, a few small bunches of exceedingly rich silver ore (particularly horn silver, or muriat of silver, and a very rare mineral) were raised in Cubert parish. Many of these pieces were finely crystallized; but the most beautiful specimen is in the cabinet of Mr. John Williams, and has been represented and described in that elegant work of Mr. James Sowerby, the "British Mineralogy, for the year 1808." Native silver also, vitrious silver ore, red silver ore, and black silver ore, have been found in Herland mine, in the parish of Gwinear; and horn silver in the Mexico mine. The latter may have produced about 2000*l.* worth of silver,

but with no profit to the adventurers. These mines have been discontinued several years. It is worth observation, that the silver as well as lead lodes of Cornwall run from north to south; inclining, or as miners call it, underlaying to the east or west; a direction altogether opposite to the copper and tin lodes, which run from east to west, and generally underlie to the north or south.

Iron, in rich lodes of red and brown ore, is produced in several parts of Cornwall, but sought after in none; owing to the great expense of smelting it, there being no coal in the county. Iron pyrites occurs in great quantities in most of the veins of copper; as well as magnetical iron ore at Penzance, and specular iron ore at Tincroft mine, in Illogan, Botollack mine, near the Land's End, and other places.

Lead is not at present an object of search in Cornwall. Within these last twenty years mines of this metal have been worked to considerable extent near Helston; and furnaces were erected for smelting the ore; but the mines after a few years becoming poor, and little profit arising from them to the adventurer, they were given up. A similar speculation was undertaken upon a smaller scale in the parish of Cubert, and shortly after relinquished on account of the same ill success. Small bunches of

galæna, or sulphuret of lead, often occur in the copper lodes ; and specimens of carbonat, phosphat, and sulphat of the same, are now and then found.

Respecting the *Semi-metals* of Cornwall the following information will not, perhaps, be unacceptable to you :

Native Bismuth is found here, but not in sufficient quantity to make it an article of commerce.

Antimony. Sulphuret or grey ore of this semimetal occurs near Port Isaac, on the North coast, and is exported from thence to London ; where it is used in casting types, and purchased by the chemists for medicinal preparations. Oxyde of antimony is also found at the same place.

Cobalt. The Wherry mine, when worked, produced white cobalt ore ; and Dolcooth, both white and grey. The quantity raised at the latter has amounted to several tons, but the workmen being unacquainted with the art of treating it, no use has been made of the ore, though it might be turned to account, as it is in request to impart a blue tint to porcelain and glass. Black oxyde of copper has also been found.

Manganese. All the varieties of this ore are produced in the Cornish manganese mines ; which chiefly belong to the Williams's, of Scorrier House, and the Foxes, of Falmouth. The principal of

these lie near Callington. They are very valuable, the arts being much indebted to the assistance of this ore in various of their processes; such as, bleaching linen and paper;* giving the violet colour to glass, and the black hue to Wedgwood ware.

Arsenic. Arsenical Pyrites, both massive and cristallized, occurs in many of the copper mines in Gwennap, Illogan, &c.

Scheele. Wolfram, massive and crystallized, is found in Poldice, and other mines in Gwennap, and at Ketchill, near Callington.

Uranite. All the varieties of this semi-metal are produced at Carharrach, Huel Gorland, Tolcarne, and Huel Unity.

Menacanite. Of this I have already made mention.

Molybdæna is found in very small quantities at Huel Unity, in Gwennap.

Of the mineral crystallizations *peculiar* to Cornwall, the following, I believe, is a pretty correct list.

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* The bleaching liquor prepared from manganese is used for bleaching the rags with which the paper is made. It renders the brownest rags perfectly white, and fit for making the finest paper. It is well known to be capable of whitening paper after being manufactured; but it is not used by paper-makers for that purpose.

All the varieties of Arseniate of Copper, described by Count de Bournon, and analyzed by Chenevix, published in the Transactions of the Royal Society for the year 1801; found at Huel Gorland and Huel Unity.

Arseniate of Copper, of the olive green colour, found at Carharrack mine.

Arseniate of Iron, crystallized in cubes, found at the same place.

Wood tin found in several stream works, more particularly in the parish of St. Stephen's, and on the Goss moors, near Bodmin.

To these should be added a schedule of the *very rare*, though not peculiar crystallizations.

Horn Silver, mentioned before.

Red Copper Ore, crystallized in perfect cubes, octoedrons and dodecaedrons, with the intermediate passages.

Copper Pyrites, or *yellow copper ore*, in perfect tetraedrons, dodecaedrons, &c. from North-Down mines, in the parish of Redruth; Tincroft mine, in Illogan, &c.

Sulphuret of Copper, or *vitreous copper ore*, crystallized in six-sided prisms, with and without double six-sided pyramids, hexangular tables, and double hexangular pyramids, &c. from Cook's Kitchen, Dolcooth, Tincruft, Crevor, and Godolphin mines.

Grey Copper Ore, crystallized, in tetraedrons and decaedrons, with the intermediate passage of crystallization; from Huel Jewel, in Gwennap.

Variegated or Purple Copper Ore, crystallized, in cubes, from Dolcooth and Huel Jewel.

Sulphuret of Tin, or *Tin Pyrites*; from St. Agnes and St. Stephen's parishes.

Carbonat of Lead, crystallized in hexangular prisms, with and without hexangular pyramids; from North Downs, Huel Unity, and Huel Rose.

Sulphat of Lead, crystallized, octoedral, &c. from a mine near Heyl.

Oxyde of Uranite, crystallized, in cubes, four-sided tables, &c. from Carharrack, Tolcarne, and Huel Gorland mines.

Blende, crystallized, in perfect tetraedrons, octoedrons, cubes, &c. from St. Agnes parish.

Grey Ore of Antimony, described by Count de Bournon, exceedingly rare.

Hydrophanous Opal, from Huel Clinton, in Gwennap.

Topaz, crystallized, white and yellow, an oxyde of tin, from St. Agnes parish.

Felspar, crystallized, in rhombs, &c. from Polgooth, Penandrea, in Redruth, and Roselobly mines, in Gwennap.

Fluor, crystallized, in octoedrons, cubes with truncated corners, also in crystals of twenty-four sides.

As the *miners* of Cornwall form so considerable a part of the population of the mining country, they would of course attract our attention, and we observed a few circumstances in their character as a body, which appeared to distinguish them from all other tribes of workmen that had before fallen under our notice. These peculiarities naturally arise from the nature of their employment, which is altogether unlike that of the labouring classes in general throughout the kingdom. I believe I have before observed, that the expense of sinking the shafts, and cutting the adits, or courses by which part of the water is drained from the mines, lies with the adventurers, who furnish also the machinery for the works. The lode is then taken by the miners *on tribute*, as it is called, or in other words, on speculation; an agreement by which they undertake to drive the vein and raise the ore, (finding their own tools, candles, gunpowder, &c.) on the condition of their receiving a certain proportion of the profits on the copper or tin produced and sold, be it little or much; a proportion which is determined and ac-

counted for every month. This circumstance of the uncertainty of their gains has a marked effect upon their character. The activity which hope inspires keeps their spirits in an agreeable agitation, renders their minds lively and alert, and prevents that dulness which generally characterizes the English labourer. Should success crown their speculation, it is needless to say that joy is the result; but if it terminate otherwise, the expectation of a more *fortunate take* holds out its never-failing consolations to them, and the charm of perspective good fortune quickly banishes all the gloom of present disappointment. They cannot be distressed by want, as the adventurers always make an advance to them after an unlucky attempt, to provide immediate necessaries for themselves and families; and thus relieved from a care which deadens all the energies of a common labourer under misfortune, and bows him down to the dust, they proceed to a second experiment with unabated ardour, and undiminished spirits. As their profits are regulated by proportions, and determined by calculations, their interest naturally leads them to become conversant with numbers; and there are scarcely any of them who are not acquainted with the lower branches of arithmetic. The various machinery too employed in the mines directs their attention so much to the mechanical powers, that it

is rare to meet with a good miner who is not also a decent practical geometrician. They are men also of very correct judgment, particularly on the subject of their own work; a faculty of peculiar importance to them in appreciating their labour, when it is to be performed at settled wages. By a recollection and comparison of the results of former experience, when a miner is taken to a spot to sink a shaft, he knows at a glance at what rate per fathom he ought to be paid for his labour, and makes his agreement accordingly; a bargain that is seldom found to give any disproportionate advantage either to his employers or himself. The moral habits of the miners are not less respectable, in general, than their intellectual ones. We were told, by the most unquestionable authority, that they are civil and respectful in their manners, and sober and decent in their conduct. Early marriage, that surest guardian of virtue, and best spur of honest industry, is very general amongst the Cornish miners, and naturally introduces with it continence, regularity, and domestic habits. Instances of ebriety will of course occasionally occur, amongst such numbers; but drunkenness is by no means a practice with them. Their chief beverages are water and tea, of which they are so fond, that many of them drink it with their dinners. They live in cottages, either rented, or erected by them-

selves; for as soon as a miner has saved a little from the profits of his labour, he incloses a small piece of waste land, builds a tenement, plants a pittance of ground for a garden, and becomes proprietor of the spot on which he dwells. Here he lives upon his gains, (which, when copper sells well, may amount, upon an average, to about 5*l.* per month,) in comfort, and generally with credit; if not an object of envy, one at least which the political œconomist may contemplate with improvement, the moralist with pleasure, and the philanthropist with delight. Nor let it be forgotten, that the *religious sentiment* is pretty universally diffused amongst them, producing those good fruits of quiet, decency, and order, which will inevitably more or less accompany a knowledge of its sublime truths and awful sanctions. The cold and feeble infidel, with iron heart and leaden head, may perhaps smile at this description of the effects of a principle, which his bosom has never felt, and which his intellect cannot distinctly comprehend; but could he see amongst the miners of Cornwall habits of inordinance fading away before its purifying influence, cruel practices vanquished by its gentle inspirations, and the whole character humanized, dignified, and exalted, under its soul-subduing power, he would at lease cease to *deride*, if his prejudices would not suffer him to

respect, a Revelation which is capable of imparting such improvement to the nature of man. The customs which, some years ago, brutalized the miners of Cornwall, and kept them in a state little better than that of savages, are now, in a great measure, exploded; the desperate wrestling matches, for prizes, that frequently terminated in death or mutilation; the inhuman cock-fights, which robbed the miners of what little feeling they possesed, and often left them plunged in debt and ruin; the pitched battles which were fought between the workmen of different mines or different parishes, and constantly ended in blood; and the riotous revelings held on particular days, when the gains of labour were always dissipated in the most brutal debauchery, are now of very rare occurrence, and will probably, in the course of a few years, be only remembered in tradition; the spots where these scenes of disorder were held, being now inclosed, and a great part of them covered with the habitations of the miners. You will naturally enquire *who* have been the immediate instruments of so much good, in a district so unlikely to exhibit such gratifying appearances? and I feel that I am but doing justice to a class of people, much, though undeservedly calumniated, when I I answer, the *Wesleian Methodists*. With a zeal

that ought to put to the blush men of *higher pretensions*, these indefatigable servants of their master have penetrated into the wilds of the mines, and, unappalled by danger or difficulty, careless of abuse or derision, and inflexible in the good work they had undertaken, they have perseveringly taught, gradually reclaimed, and at length, I may almost venture to say, completely reformed a large body of men, who, without their exertions, would probably have still been immersed in the deepest spiritual darkness, and the grossest mora lturpitude. "The irreligious fools of the world," and the interested asserters of *exclusive establishment privileges*, would probably consider this tribute of praise to the Wesleian Methodists, as the dotage of enthusiasm, or the cant of disaffection; but from *you*, I may expect a more favourable conclusion. In *your* heart there is a corresponding chord, which will vibrate with pleasure at the view of so ample an harvest of good, whoever may have been the labourers employed in sowing the seed; and will be ready to bear grateful testimony to that exemplary zeal which, under the sanction of higher auspices, has been the means of producing it.

Amongst a large body of men, confined almost entirely to the company of each other, and engaged

in labours constantly associated with danger* and darkness, we expected to have found many superstitious notions, the natural offspring of the *awful* operating upon *ignorance*. In this, however, we were disappointed. The miners of Cornwall are free from the shackles of these terrors of the imagination; and the only remnants of superstition which we discovered amongst them, were, a careful abstaining from *whistling* when under ground, and a firm belief in the efficacy of the *Virgula Divinitoria*, or *Divining Rod*. In regard to *whistling*, it may be observed, that the dislike to it does not seem peculiar to their profession. Sailors, you know, when on board ship, avoid this practice with the utmost caution, except when they have recourse to it with the superstitious view of calling a wind to their assistance by its influence; at all other times they consider it as

* The accidents most common amongst the miners are those arising from blasting the rock with gunpowder. Upon enquiry, however, at the consolidated mines of Huel Unity and Poldice, where the ground is hard, and frequently *shot*, as it is called, there did not appear to be, upon an average, more than one accident in every hundred men, during the course of the year. A noble Infirmary at Truro receives all the unfortunate miners who suffer such casualties; as well as all other poor labouring men who are disabled by accident or disease.

inauspicious. It would be curious to investigate the cause of such associations being connected with a very innocent and sprightly kind of natural melody; I must leave this, however, to the researches of others, and in the mean time confess myself totally unable to detect its reason, or trace its original.

The virtues of the Virgula, or Divining Rod, are acknowledged by other miners as well as those of Cornwall. I remember some years ago having heard them positively asserted amongst the people employed in the *lapis calaminaris* mines of Mendip, who would as soon have doubted the power of gunpowder in blasting the rock, as the influence of this magical wand in pointing out the invisible course of mineral veins. It must be observed, however, that implicit credit is not given to the virtue of the Virgula by *all* the persons concerned in the Cornish mines: most of the workmen are firm believers in it; but many of the captains are sceptical; and all the proprietors absolute infidels in this respect. The use of it is of great antiquity in foreign countries, though it was introduced into this only in Queen Anne's reign by a Spaniard, named Capt. Ribeira, who deserted from the service of his country, and was made Captain Commandant of the garrison of Plymouth. The efficacy which it appeared to possess in his hands soon made it a popular instrument in all the English

mining counties, and as *implicit faith* accompanied its use, so those accidental discoveries which it was impossible should *not* occasionally occur in districts intersected by lodes, to persons who tried the country with it, served to increase its credit; whilst the disappointments or mistakes which more frequently attended its operations, were ever put to the account of the Virgula being irregularly made, improperly held, or the person carrying it not being one in whose hands it would act. As lately as thirty years ago the reputation of this magical wand continued to be unblemished, and its claims undiminished in the West of England; and Pryce, one of the most scientific and experienced miners of Cornwall, was an inflexible believer in its extraordinary effects. He has given us the following account of its construction and use:—"The rods formerly used, were "shoots of one year's growth that grew forked; "but it is found, that two separate shoots tied "together with some vegetable substance, as pack-"thread, will answer rather better than those which "are grown forked, as their shoots being seldom of "equal length or bigness they do not handle so well "as the others, which may be chosen of exactly the "same size. The shape of the rod thus prepared, "will be between two and a half and three feet "long. They must be tied together at their great

" or root ends, the smaller being to be held in the " hands. Hazel rods cut in the winter, such as are " used for fishing-rods, and kept till they are dry, " do best; though where these are not at hand, " apple-tree suckers, rods from peach-trees, currants, " or the oak, though green, will answer tolerably " well.

" It is very difficult to describe the manner of " holding and using the rod: it ought to be held in " the hands, the smaller ends lying flat or parallel to " the horizon, and the upper part in an elevation " not perpendicular to it, but seventy degrees.

" The rod being properly held by those with " whom it will answer, when the toe of the right " foot is within the semi-diameter of the piece of metal " or other subject of the rod, it will be repelled " towards the face, and continue to be so, while the " foot is kept from touching or being directly over " the subject; in which case, it will be sensibly and " strongly attracted, and be drawn quite down. " The rod should be firmly and steadily grasped; " for if, when it hath begun to be attracted there be " the least imaginable jerk, or opposition to its " attraction, it will not move any more, till the " hands are opened and a fresh grasp taken. The " stronger the grasp, the livelier the rod moves, " provided the grasp be steady, and of an equal

" strength. This observation is very necessary,
" as the operation of the rod in many hands is
" defeated purely by a jerk or counter action; and
" it is from thence concluded, there is no real efficacy
" in the rod, or that the person who holds it wants
" the virtue; whereas by a proper attention to this
" circumstance in using it, five persons in six have
" the virtue as it is called; that is, the nut or fruit
" bearing rod will answer in their hands. When
" the rod is drawn down, the hands must be opened,
" the rod raised by the middle fingers, a fresh grasp
" taken, and the rod held again in the direction
" described.

" A little practice by a person in earnest about it,
" will soon give him the necessary adroitness in the
" use of this instrument; but it must be particularly
" observed, that as our animal spirits are necessary
" to this process, so a man ought to hold the rod
" with the same indifference and inattention to, or
" reasoning about it, or its effects, as he holds a
" fishing-rod or a walking-stick; for if the mind be
" occupied by doubts, reasoning, or any other
" operation that engages the animal spirits, it will
" divert their powers from being exerted in this
" process, in which their instrumentality is abso-
" lutely necessary; from hence it is that the rod
" constantly answers in the hands of peasants,

" women, and children, who hold it simply without " puzzling their minds with doubts or reasonings. " Whatever may be thought of this observation, it " is a very just one, and of great consequnce in the " practice of the rod.

" If a rod, or the least piece of one, of the nut " bearing or fruit kind, be put under the arm, it " will totally destroy the operation of the Virgula " Divinatoria in regard to all the subjects of it, ex- " cept water, in those hands in which the rod natu- " rally operates. If the least animal thread, as silk, " or worsted, or hair, be tied round or fixed on the " top of the rod, it will in like manner hinder its " operation; but the same rod placed under the " arm, or the same animal substances tied round or " fixed on the top of the rod, will make it work in " those hands, in which, without these additions, it " is not attracted.

" The willow, and other rods, that will not an- " swer in the hands in which the fruit or nut bear- " ing rods attracted, will answer in those hands in " which the others will not; so that all persons " using suitable rods in a proper manner have the " virtue as it is called of the rod. A piece of the " same willow placed under the arm, or the silk, " worsted, or hair, bound round, or fixed to the top " of it, will make it answer with those to whom the

" nut or fruit bearing rods are naturally suitable, " and in whose hands, without those additions, it " would not answer.

" All rods, in all hands, answer to springs of " water.

" If a rod is wanted for distinguishing copper or " gold, procure filings of iron, lead, and tin, some " leaf silver, chalk in powder, coal in powder, and " rasped bones: let a hole be bored with a small " gimblet in the top of the rod; then mix the least " imaginable quantity of the above ingredients, and " put it in the gimblet hole with a peg of the same " wood with the rod, when it will only be attracted " by what is left out, viz. gold and copper.

" In preparing a rod for distinguishing the white " metals, leave out the lead, tin, and leaf silver, and " add copper filings to the other ingredients; and " so of every subject by which you would have the " rod attracted, the respective filings or powder " must be left out of the mixture which is to be " put into the hole at the top of the rod. As for " coal and bones, they may be omitted in the dis- " tinguishing rods that are used in Cornwall, for " obvious reasons: but it is necessary to put in the " chalk or lime; for though there is no limestone in " the mining part of the county, yet there are abun- " dance of strata that draw the rod as limestone;

" for the distinction of a dead or a live course, holds
" as well in regard to limestone, as to the metals.
" This, however paradoxical it may appear, is a
" truth easily to be proved; and it is one axiom in
" the science of the rod, that it makes no distinction
" between the living and dead parts of a course.
" Like the lodestone, it only shews the course, leav-
" ing the success of the undertaking to the fortune,
" skill, and management of the miner; as the lode-
" stone doth that of the voyage, to the fortune,
" ability, and prudence of the mariner and merchant.

" The rod being guarded against all subjects ex-
" cept that which you want to discover, as tin and
" copper, for example; walk steadily and slowly on
" with it; and a person that hath been accustomed
" to carry it, will meet with a single repulsion and
" attraction, every three, four, or five yards, which
" must not be heeded, it being only from the water
" that is between every bed of killas, grouan, or
" other strata. When the holder approaches a
" lode so near as its semi-diameter, the rod feels
" loose in the hands, and is very sensibly repelled
" toward the face; if it be thrown back so far as
" to touch the hat, it must be brought forward to
" its usual elevation, when it will continue to be
" repelled till the foremost foot is over the edge
" of the lode: when this is the case, if the rod

" is held well, there will first be a small repulsion " towards the face; but this is momentary; and " the rod will be immediately drawn irresistibly " down, and will continue to be so in the whole " passage over the lode; but as soon as the fore- " most foot is beyond its limits, the attraction from " the hindmost foot, which is still on the lode, " or else the repulsion on the other side, or both, " throw the rod back toward the face. The dis- " tance from the point where the attraction begun, " and where it ended, is the breadth of the lode; or " rather of a horizontal section of the bryle or back " just under the earth. We must then turn, and " trace it on obliquely, or in the way of zig-zag, as " far as may be thought necessary.

" In the course of this tracing a lode, all the cir- " cumstances of it, so far as they relate to its back, " will be discovered; as its breadth at different " places, its being squeezed together by hard strata, " its being cut off and thrown aside from its regular " course by a cross-gossan, &c."

We were told, it is true, many stories to confirm the above surprizing accounts of the powers of the *Virgula Divinatoria*; but none of them were of sufficient weight to make us converts to a faith in its virtues; and we came away from our informants in much the same temper of mind as Johnson left the

reporters of the *second sight* faculty, rather willing to believe, than actually convinced that what we had heard had any foundation in truth.

When we quitted Truro, we relinquished any further *underground* researches, and determined to confine ourselves for the remainder of our journey to the external face of nature. We were now, indeed, at every step leaving the principal mining country behind us, and getting into districts where objects of a far different nature engaged the busy attention of man, and more certain, but less splendid profits were sought for, in the cultivation of the *surface* of the ground. One farewell view of the southern coast remained to us from a rising ground two or three miles from Truro. Here we caught sight of the noble harbour of Falmouth; and its bold termination, the promontory of Pendennis, crested by the turrets of its castle, which from this distance assumed a most august appearance. We beheld it with that lingering gaze which is natural when we take a parting look at a pleasing object; and then bade adieu to it probably for ever.

The shabby village of St. Erme would probably have been passed by us without notice, had we not been told that it was remarkable for the largest cattle emporium in Cornwall. Here the graziers from the north of Cornwall bring their beasts to the fair,

which is held in the month of September; and in the course of a few hours, a transfer of property, to the amount of many thousand pounds, is made in a place, where, from its appearance, one would as soon expect to see a mermaid as a guinea. I must except, however, the halcyon time of an election, when I presume St. Erme, like all other places in Cornwall, so happily privileged as itself, is inundated with the wages of corruption. Not, however, in the same degree with another dirty village that we passed through, which, from the monstrous venality of its voters, is denominated Sodom; whilst its neighbouring borough, from a similar cause, has obtained the equally honourable name of Gomorrah!—mortifying reflection to a Briton, whose chief *political boast* is that grand feature of the constitution of his country, which distinguishes and exalts it amongst the other governments of the world—*Popular Representation.**

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* The following little history of the origin of the Cornish boroughs is curious and entertaining:—"And now I am "engaged in this subject, it will not be foreign to the his- "tory of Cornwall, to enquire into the original of this so "much envied privilege, of sending a great number of re- "presentatives to the House of Commons, from so small a "county, and from boroughs mostly so inconsiderable as to

We were led half a mile to the right, just before we entered St. Columb, to look at a rude structure

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" trade, inhabitants, and every thing that can entitle places " to distinction; whilst several towns in England, much " superior in all respects, have never been admitted to the " same honour.

" This pre-eminence of our county is not ancient. From " the 23d of Edward I. five boroughs only, (viz. Lanceston, " Liskerd, Truro, Bodmin, and Helston,) sent two members " each, and the county two. Lostwythiel has held the same " privilege from the 4th of Edward II. and sent two mem- " bers once before, viz. in the 33d Edward I. These are " our only six ancient boroughs, and the number was neither " diminished nor increased, till the 6th of Edward VI. ex- " cepting only in one instance, which shall be taken notice " of in the sequel.

" At this time (viz. in the latter end of the reign of Ed- " ward VI.) seven other boroughs, viz. Saltash, Camelford, " West-Loo, Granpont, Tindagel, Michel, and Newport, " were permitted to send up two members each.

" In the 1st of Mary, Penryn, and in the 4th and 5th of " the same reign, St. Ives, had the like privilege.

" In the 1st of Elizabeth, Tregeny was admitted; in the 5th, " St. German's and St. Maw's; in the 13th, East-Loo and " Fawy; and in the 27th of that reign, Callington; making " up the number of twenty-one boroughs, which with the " county, return to parliament forty-four members.

" The reason of this modern addition to the boroughs of " this county, may, I think, best appear from considering that

of stones, called a *Coit*, similar to the one I have before described. Borlase attributes this and such

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" the dutchy of Cornwall (then in the crown and oftener so " than separated from it) yields in tin and lands an hereditary " revenue, much superior to what the crown has in any " county in England, and that eight of these boroughs had " either an immediate or remote connection with the de- " mesne lands of this dutchy, a link formerly of much stricter " union and higher command than at present. Four other " boroughs depended on or wholly belonged to religious " houses which fell to the crown at the dissolution of monas- " teries, in the reign of Henry VIII. For instance, New- " port rose with Lanceston priory, and with it fell to the " crown. Penryn depended much on the rich college of " Glasney and its lands; the manor also was alienated by " Edward VI. but restored by Queen Mary, and the town " privileged by her. St. German's was (after Bodmin) the " chief priory in Cornwall, and the borough of Fawy fell " to the crown with the priory of Trewardraith, to which it " belonged.

" The other boroughs remain to be taken notice of. Mi- " chel belonged to the rich and highly-allied family of the " Arundels of Lanhearne, and St. Ives and Callington to the " family of Pawlet, (Marquis of Winchester, now Duke of " Bolton,) by marrying the heiress of Willoughby Lord " Brook, some time of Newton-Ferrers in this county. Now " these several connections of the additional boroughs may " point out to us the rise of this privilege.

" Henry VII. reduced the power of the ancient Lords, and " consequently advanced that of the Commons: Henry VIII.

like structures to the Druids, who raised them as sepulchral monuments, to secure and surround the

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" enriched many of the Commons with church-lands; and in " the latter end of the reign of Edward VI. the Duke of " Northumbarland could not but perceive of what conse- " quence it was to his ambitious schemes to have a majority " in the House of Commons; and Cornwall seems to have " been pitched upon as the most proper scene for this stretch " of the prerogative, because of the large property and con- " sequently influence of the dutchy: Six towns therefore " depending on the dutchy and church-lands, and one " borough of a powerful family, were indulged to send four- " teen members. The ministry of those days were not so " defective in artifice as not to oblige powerful lords now " and then with the same indulgence which they granted to " these boroughs, thereby endeavouring either to reconcile " them to their administration, or to make this guilty in- " crease of the prerogative less invidious. Queen Mary, in " her short reign, (probably from the same motives,) admit- " ted two more; and Queen Elizabeth, who never rejected " any political precedent which might confirm her power, " (though always, it must be owned, exerting that power for " the prosperity of her people, as well as her own glory,) " admitted six other boroughs.

" The only instances which could give the least colour of " justice to these proceedings, were few and weak. The " borough of Tregeny sent burgesses indeed twice, viz. in " the 23d and 35th of Edward I. but no more till the 1st of " Elizabeth. East-Loo and Fawy sent one and the same " merchant, then called a ship-owner, to a council at West-

remains of the departed from the destructive violence of the weather, and the impious rage of enemies;

" minster, (not to parliament,) in the 14th of Edward III.
" Of these, however, Queen Elizabeth laid hold for the
" more specious promoting her designs: In her first year
" she revived the claims of Tregeny; in the 5th of her reign,
" ' Burgesses being returned for St. Jermyne's and St. Maws
" ' in Cornwall, Mr. Speaker declared in the House, that the
" ' Lord-Steward agreed they should resort unto the House,
" ' and with convenient speed, to shew their letters-patents
" ' why they be returned in this parliament:' ' But they
" ' were no farther questioned,' (says Dr. Willis, ib. p. 168,)
" ' the Queen's inclinations being well understood.'

" In the 13th Elizabeth both East-Loo and Fawy elected two
" members, which being taken notice of and examined into,
" ' Report was made by the House of the validity of the bur-
" ' gesses, and it was ordered, by the Attorney-general's assent,
" ' that the burgesses shall remain according to their returns;
" ' for that the validity of the charters is elsewhere to be ex-
" ' amined, if cause be:' ' By which means,' says Dr. Willis,
" (ib. p. 102,) ' little or no dispute being made against the
" ' Queen's power, the House became greatly increased with
" ' representatives, especially by the sending of burgesses
" ' from those boroughs.'

" Nor was it any objection, I imagine, to their sending up
" members, that these boroughs had little trade, few inha-
" bitants, and those poor and of no eminence; these circum-
" stances in all likelihood did rather promote than prevent
" their being privileged, as rendering them more tractable

and to preserve their memory by such a laboured testimony of respect. They are evidently of Celtic

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" and dependant than if they had been large and opulent " towns, inhabited by persons of trade, rank, and discernment.

" It is true, indeed, these places so summoned were old " boroughs (in the legal acceptation of the word), that is, " had immunities granted them by their Princes or Lords, " exemptions from services in other courts, privileges of " exercising trades, of electing officers within their own " district, and invested with the property of lands, mills, " fairs, &c. paying annually a certain chief or fee-farm rent; " most of them also were parts of the ancient demesnes of the " crown, and had been either in the crown or in the royal " blood from the Norman Conquest, and by passing to and " from the crown often, and their privileges constantly " reserved and confirmed at every transfer, these towns had " acquired a kind of nominal dignity, but were in every " other light inconsiderable, and no ways entitled to the " power of sending members to parliament, much less in " preference to so many more populous communities in the " other parts of England."—*Borlase's Nat. Hist.* p. 309, 312.

As Cornwall can boast the tutelage of more *saints*, and the return of more members of parliament, than any other county in England, so may it hold out a claim to a larger number of *country bankers* than any district of similar population with itself. We were told there are fifty-six of these firms in the county; of which Truro produces six, and the little town of Penzance *nine*!

origin, from their being found in all countries universally allowed to be peopled by this tribe; in Cornwall, Wales, Anglesey, Scotland, Ireland, and the British isles.

St. Columb did not give us more favourable impressions of the Cornish towns than we had before entertained; being straggling, narrow, and paved with execrable pebbles, which, from the town stretching down a long descent, may be considered as forming a very dangerous road. It is sufficiently satisfied with itself, however, as it possesses the envied right of returning members to the senate. We had been too much disgusted with prior specimens of Cornish representation to enquire in how *few* a number the elective franchise was vested.

As it was our intention to include some antiquities in our way to Padstow, we took a circuitous route to that place, and turned into the Wadebridge road, where we reached the summit of the hill that was to the north of St. Columb. Here our attention was soon caught by *Castle Andinas*, a noble entrenchment situated on the loftiest point of a bold eminence to the right. We found it a place of prodigious strength; originally fortified with three circular walls, and an immense ditch. Remains of the former are still visible, and the latter will probably endure till the destruction of "the great globe itself,

" and all which it inherit." It is generally believed (and seemingly with truth) to have been constructed by the Danes; and from its name, which signifies the *castle of the palace*, as well as some appearances in its area, may be considered as a permanent fortified residence of some Scandinavian chief, who for a time ruled over the adjacent district. The diameter of the inclosed space is 400 feet.

To this, at the distance of two miles, succeeded another remain of antiquity, though perhaps of more recent date: a series of nine rude stones, called the Nine Sisters. They are placed in a rectilinear position, stretching from north to south; three of them remaining upright as they were originally, and the remainder lying on the ground. We were inclined to attribute them to the Danes, (who visited Cornwall in the ninth century, both as friends and foes,) on two accounts, first, because the number nine was sacred in Runic mythology,* and secondly, because

* See Adam of Bremen in Grotii prolegom. 104; and Mallet's Northern Antiq. passim. Amongst the ancient Scandinavians a solemn festival was held every nine years, when nine animals of every species were sacrificed to their gods. Odin too, we are told, resolving to die as a warrior before the approach of old age and infirmity, called a general assembly of the Goths, and gave himself nine mortal wounds before

it was the custom of this people to mark the scene of victory, and places of interment, with upright stones. The highest of these monuments did not appear to have stood more than eight feet out of the ground; and was greatly eclipsed in grandeur by a solitary stone about a mile and a half further on, which rose from a circular basin to the height of sixteen feet. It is an unchisseled mass of moor-stone, with no other symptom of its having suffered from the battery of ten thousand tempests, than being removed a little out of its perpendicular. Its situation is desolate,

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them, of which he died. The same veneration of the number Nine is to be found amongst the Tartars. All presents made to their princes consist, in general, of nine of each article. At all their feasts this number and its combinations are always attended to in their dishes of meat, and in their skins of liquor. At one entertainment, mentioned by the Tartar King Abulgazi Khan, there were nine thousand sheep, nine hundred horses, and ninety-nine vessels of brandy, &c. See Richardson's Dissertation, prefixed to his Persic Dictionary; Proofs and Illustrations. This similarity between the Tartars and Scandinavians, in a superstitious regard to the number nine, is brought by this ingenious author as one among other proofs of the latter people being descendants of the former. His theory is supported by much sensible reasoning, and has probably its foundation in truth.

but commands one of the finest views in Cornwall. We here caught many a league of the North coast, from east to west, with its rocks and harbours; and a vast extent of inland country, diversified by its hills and rivers, its towns and villages. Woods alone were wanting to give the picture every possible charm; for though the North of Cornwall is not so destitute of timber as the opposite district of the county, the eye still craves a larger proportion of it than it can find.

Having accidentally met with a very intelligent farmer, we were conducted, through an intricate road, to an object of which we had heard much, but should probably never have discovered, without such a conductor, since its retired situation seems to have concealed it even from the prying eye of the indefatigable Borlase. It is a Kistvaen,* (or stone chest,) of great beauty, and in good preservation, standing in a small common field, about a mile and a half to the westward of the upright stone just described. Its elaborate structure marks the dignity of the person whom it commemorates. An artificial barrow appears to have been first raised, about forty paces in circumference, in the centre of which

* See Frontispiece.

was left an oblong depression, three feet deep, inclosed by upright stones, leaving a vacant space for the body, eight feet in length, by three and a half over. On the outside of these, nine stones were placed in a perpendicular position, which supported a flat horizontal one, of irregular form, fourteen feet and a half long, eight feet in breadth in the broadest part, and about two feet on the average in depth. A large fragment of this covering has been broken off, and lies at the foot of its parent mass. We had no doubt of its Danish original, from the reasons given above, as well as from the well-known fact of the Druids burning their dead, and the circumstance of a receptacle beneath the Kistvaen, which was evidently prepared for the purpose of receiving the body in its natural state. We were much pleased with the object itself, and with its sequestered situation, and considered it as the finest remain of rude antiquity which we had seen in Cornwall.

An agreeable transition of scenery occurred shortly after we quitted the Kistvaen. The wild, unbroken views, that had so perpetually recurred, were now changed for close sequestered glens, which the most romantic parts of Devonshire could not have rivalled in beauty. The character of the per-

fect picturesque may be justly claimed by the village of Little Potherwick, where a rude arch thrown over the road, an old mill, an ivied church, and several cottages, sprinkled on a very irregular spot of ground, produced a most striking and lovely effect. The magic of this combination is completed by an exuberance of foliage which breaks the forms of the objects, and only partially admits the light. A good road of six or seven miles conducted us to Padstow. The beauty of the harbour, on the western side of which this town stands, powerfully arrested our attention. The tide was at flood, and filled the whole of a vast and deep recess, the mouth of which being concealed by the juttings of the land, the expanse assumed the appearance of a noble lake. Had not nature denied it the accompaniment of wood, Padstow harbour would be one of the most majestic objects in Britain. The town, though not correspondent in beauty, is a place of wealth and respectability; and the liberal spirit of its inhabitants is sufficiently visible in the improvements and accommodations they are forming in its neighbourhood. Amongst them may be reckoned the walks and plantations of Mr. Rawlings, which are executed with taste, and when matured, will be a considerable ornament to the town. Its trade, in

times of peace, is considerable; the exports consisting of large quantities of fish, and the imports of hemp, timber, &c. from Russia, Denmark, and Norway. The only object connected with antiquity that attracted our notice here was *Place*, situated a little above the town, the residence of Mr. Broom, an embattled mansion, apparently of the fifteenth century, uniform and substantial, and capable originally of making a respectable defence against the transient accidental outrages of barbarous times. The chief curiosity, however, in the immediate neighbourhood of Padstow is its rocks, honeycombed into romantic caverns, and resorted to in fine and warm weather, for the purposes of pleasure and enjoyment. But woe betide the wretched mariners who are involuntarily driven towards them by the blast of the storm! Escape is hopeless. Their black perpendicular heads frown inevitable destruction on every vessel that approaches them; and seldom does one of the unhappy crew survive, to tell the horrors of the shipwreck!

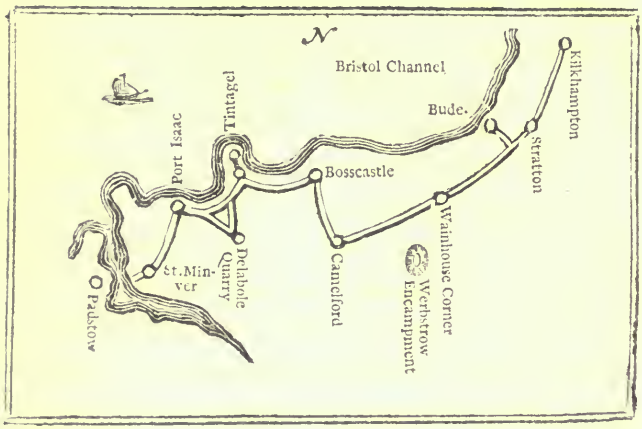
"Again she plunges! hark! a second shock
"Tears her strong bottom on the marble rock:
"Down on the vale of death, with dismal cries,
"The fated victims shuddering roll their eyes,

" In wild despair; while yet another stroke
" With deep convulsions rends the solid oak:
" Till, like the mine, in whose infernal cell
" The lurking dæmons of destruction dwell,
" At length asunder torn, her frame divides,
" And crashing spreads in ruin o'er the tides."

I am, dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

R. W.



LETTER VIII.

TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR SIR, *Kilkhampton, Aug.* 24, 1808.

MY Cornish tour has at least added to my stock of prudential maxims, and taught me a rule, which I shall always observe,—never to attempt crossing a strait of water with a horse, when it shall be in my power to reach its opposite side by a *terra firma* road, however circuitous the journey

may be. The harbour of Padstow, at the ferry, is somewhat better than half a mile across; where a commodious boat generally plies backwards and forwards to convey travellers and their cattle over the passage. Unfortunately, however, this vehicle happened at present to be under repair, and its substitute was too small to admit more than one horse at a time. W.'s animal, with all the accommodating readiness of his master, skipped willingly into the boat, and was conveyed over with expedition and safety; but alas! no arts of persuasion or compulsion would prevail upon my Rosinante, to follow his example when the boat returned. The Exeter Hack (for such is his history) was dead to the influence of both; and I found, too late, that the most inflexible obstinacy might be enumerated amongst his other unfortunate qualities. In this dilemma, the boatmen advised me to *swim* him over; asserting that he would pass the strait in this manner with the utmost ease. Ignorance must be my excuse for listening to their advice; the steed was tied to the stern of the boat, and we launched into the deep. We had not proceeded an hundred yards, however, before I bitterly repented my folly, in giving the animal credit for possessing the properties of a Newfoundland dog. Convulsive snortings evinced that he was in an element by no means

natural to him; and his motion resembled more the struggles of death than the art of swimming. He turned now on one side, and now on the other, whilst the noose was every moment slipping from his head, which the utmost strength of myself and a boatman was hardly sufficient to keep above the water. Happily it was dead ebb tide, so that the distance between the shores was considerably less than at any other time, and no cross current impeded our motion. But with all these advantages it was only by the greatest exertions we preserved the poor animal from becoming the prey of fishes; and I know not that I ever experienced a more lively satisfaction than when we brought him safe, though half dead with fright and fatigue, to land. The confusion into which we were thrown by this adventure entirely dissipated from our memory the direction of some fair and amiable friends, who had troubled themselves with pointing out to our attention all in and around Padstow; and we forgot to visit St. Enodock, which lies to the north of the spot where we disembarked. We regretted this the more, as we understood that it was a place of great curiosity. The violence of the north-westerly gales is continually heaping sheets of sand upon the eastern side of Padstow harbour; and amongst the other depredations occasioned by this accumulation, the village of

St. Enodock, it seems, has been compleatly covered by them. The church too would inevitably share the same fate, were it not rescued by the *piety* of its successive incumbents, who cannot enjoy the endowment attached to it unless divine service be performed there once every year. To effect this annual ceremony, the *roof* of the church is kept clear of the sand that was on all sides of it, in which an entrance is made into the body, as well as a skylight, for the convenience of the minister upon this singular occasion. The little church of St. Mynver, near our place of landing, destitute of neighbouring habitations, which probably have been removed or overwhelmed, from a similar cause, seems likely in time to demand an equal exertion of *zeal* in its minister with that of St. Enodock.

The deep romantic recesses of the shore on this coast of Cornwall form its most striking and peculiar features. We crossed the sands at the bottom of one of these indentations, which, from the terrors it holds out to mariners, is denominated Hell-gates. A tremendous sea, forced into it by a brisk north-easterly wind, lashing its perpendicular rocky sides, which reverberated the roar of the conflicting waves, afforded us a faint idea of the awful appearance it must exhibit under the circumstances of a tempest from this quarter of the heavens. We found another of

these beautiful hollows, but of a less dangerous character, about seven miles from Padstow, called Port Isaac. It terminates in a little town, crouching beneath a high hill to the south, which conceals it from the view till a near approach. There is something particularly striking in its situation. It seems as if it were a little world in itself, and held no commerce with mankind. Port Isaac is, however, a place of business, and *had* not long since (for unhappily I must use a *past* tense when I speak of the prosperity of Cornwall) a considerable trade in the exportation of pilchards, and slate from Delabole or Deniball quarry. Five seines are fitted out by its merchants, who cure their fish in two or three large cellars built near the town.*

The celebrated quarry which furnishes so large a proportion of the exports of Port Isaac, lies four miles to the south-east of that place. This is a very singular and curious feature of the country. Riding down a steep and rough descent, we found ourselves on the edge of a huge excavation, the work of human industry, which for an hundred years had been occupied in digging the valuable slate from

* It was from one of these that I formed the description of a pilchard cellar in an earlier part of this work.

its bowels. The rugged precipices on every side, the machinery for discharging water from the quarry, the different operations of a number of labourers, and the shattering of the rock by gunpowder, produced a powerful impression upon the senses. It was, however, a tame scene compared with what it must have displayed a few years since, when its labourers were five times as many as at present. Dr. Borlase, who saw it under happier circumstances, has left us a good description of it as it appeared fifty years ago. "The whole "quarry," says he, "is about three hundred yards "long and one hundred wide: the deepest part "from the grass is judged to be forty fathoms: the "*strata* in the following order: the green sod, one "foot; a yellow brown clay, two feet; then the "rock, dipping inwards into the hill towards the "south-west, and preserving that inclination from "top to bottom: at first the rock is in a lax shat-"tery state, with short and frequent fissures, the "*laminæ* of unequal thickness, and not horizontal: "thus the rock continues to the depth of ten or "twelve fathom, all which is good for nothing, "and entirely to be rid off; then comes in a firmer "brown stone, which becomes still browner in the "air; this is fit for slatting houses, and the largest "size for flat pavement, never sweating as the cliff

" slat, which is exposed to the sea air. This is " called the *top-stone*, and continues for ten fathom " deep, the stone improving somewhat as you sink, " but not at the best till you come to twenty-four " fathom deep from the grass; then rises what they " call the *bottom-stone*, of a grey blue colour, and " such a close texture, that on the touch it will " sound clear, like a piece of metal; the masses are " first raised rough from the rock by wedges driven " by sledges of iron, and contain from five to ten, " twelve or fourteen feet, superficial square of " stone: as soon as this mass is freed by one man, " another stone-cutter, with a strong wide chizel " and mallet, is ready to cleave it to its proper thin- " ness, which is usually about the eighth of an " inch; the shivers irregular from two feet long, " and one foot wide, downwards, to one foot square " and sometimes (though seldom) dividing into " such large flakes as to make tables and tomb- " stones.

" In this quarry several parties of men work on " separate stages or floors, some twelve fathom " from the grass, some twenty, others forty fathom " deep, according to the portion of ground belong- " ing to each party; the small shattery stone, not " fit for covering houses, serves to shore up the " rubbish, to divide the different allotments, and

" shape the narrow paths up and down the quarry;
" all the slat is carried with no small danger from
" the plot where it rises, on men's backs, which
" are guarded from the weight by a kind of leathern
" apron, or rather cushion; the carrier disposes
" his charge of stones in rows side by side, till the
" area allotted to his partners is full, and then
" horses are ready to take them off, and carry
" them by tale to the person that buys them. The
" principal horizontal fissures, which divide the
" *strata*, run from ten to fifteen feet asunder; they
" are no more than chinks or joints, and contain no
" heterogeneous fossil. The stone of this quarry
" weighs to water as $2-\frac{62}{121}$ are to 1, is not sub-
" ject to rot or decay, to imbibe water, or split with
" falling, as the *bottom-stone* of Tintagel, and other
" quarries; but for its lightness, and enduring
" weather, is generally preferred to any slat in
" Great-Britain."*

We saw one of these slates, the dimensions of which were eleven feet in length, and five feet in breadth.

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* I have been the more copious in my extracts from Borlase's Natural History, because his descriptions are minute and accurate; and because the book has become exceedingly scarce.

We had now nearly exhausted all the Cornish objects of curiosity; one more interesting remain of antiquity, however, demanded our notice, before we quitted this county, which lay five miles from Delabole quarry, TINTAGEL CASTLE, the birth-place and chief residence of the immortal Arthur. You, I presume, together with all our heretic antiquaries of the present day, are sceptical as to the existence of this hero; but we, not to miss the magical effect that imagination might throw over such a celebrated scene, determined to "hold each strange tale devoutly true," which monkish writers or poets had handed down of this ancient assertor of British liberty. As we approached its venerable ruins, we conjured up all the visions of its ancient magnificence, its martial splendour, and festal gaiety; its round table begirt with many a hero bold; its masques, its tourneys, and its minstrels; the triumph of Arthur's return to his walls when he came back from the conquest of his foes; and the inauspicious omens which attended his fatal march to Camlan's field, where he fell by the sword of Mordred:

"O'er Cornwall's cliffs the tempest roar'd,
"High the screaming sea-mew soar'd;
"On Tintagel's topmost tow'r
"Darksome fell the sleety show'r;

" Round the rough castle shrilly sung
" The whistling blast, and wildly flung
" On each tall rampart's thund'ring side
" The surges of the trembling tide:
" When Arthur rang'd his red-cross ranks,
" On conscious Camlan's crimson banks;
" By Mordred's faithless guile decreed
" Beneath a Saxon spear to bleed!*

Every feature, indeed, connected with Tintagel Castle is formed to foster the flights of fancy. The wildest and most desolate tract of Cornwall is spread around the promontory on which it stands; and its immediate approach is through a tremendous glen, darkened by shivering shistose rocks, re-echoing the noise of quarriers' labours, and the thunders of the explosions which split the slate from its parent bed. The ruins are scattered over a lofty neck of land, rent asunder towards the extremity by some of "Nature's throes;" and flanked almost on every side by the most awful precipices. No garniture of trees or shrubs; no luxuriant vegetation, the gift of

* T. Warton's Poems, p. 95. It is whimsical, that by a topographical or typographical error, this Castle should be placed by Warton (in a note) on the *southern* instead of the *northern* coast of Cornwall.

Nature; or waving harvest, the rich reward of human industry, contrast these rugged features: all is in perfect unison; the ruins of Tintagel Castle claim dominion over unqualified desolation; over one wide and wild scene of troubled ocean, barren country, and horrid rocks.

The original disposition of these remains, and the designation of their particular parts, are now unintelligible from extreme decay; but we were sufficiently convinced from the appearance of a semi-circular arch, a feature of architecture borrowed from the Romans, that Borlase was wrong in his conjecture, when he attributed Tintagel Castle to the Britons *before* they were acquainted with that people.* It is true, indeed, that its situation is not such an one as modern tactics would have pitched upon for a fortress; since it is overlooked by the rise of its own hill to the south-west, and by another rocky elevation to the east; on the opposite side of the ravine

* He says it was "a product of the rudest times, before "the Cornish Britons had learnt from the Romans any thing "of the art of war." Ant. 353. It must be remembered, however, that the Britons had no idea of *turning an arch* previously to their acquaintance with Roman masonry. The *flat impost* was substituted by them, in lieu of this useful architectural contrivance.

I have described. But to these disadvantages may be opposed the imperfection of the art of war in Britain till the invention of gunpowder, the impregnable bulwarks which nature had thrown round three sides of the promontory of Tintagel, and the facility with which the remaining quarter might be rendered equally capable of defence against any enemy unprovided with cannon.

These ruins of Tintagel consist of two divisions; one scattered over the face of the main promontory, and another over the peninsula, which is severed from it. The walls of the former are garretted, and pierced with many little square holes for the discharge of arrows. They seem to have included within them two narrow courts. At the upper end of the most southern of them are the remains of several stone steps, leading probably to the parapet of the walls. Here the ramparts were high and strong; this being the quarter overlooked by the neighbouring hill. As they wound round to west, however, less labour had been expended upon their structure; for a hideous precipice of three hundred feet deep, to the edge of which they were carried, prevented the fear of any assault in that quarter. The works on the peninsula had been anciently connected with those on the main land, by a draw-bridge, thrown across a chasm in the division above-men-

tioned. This, however, had gone to decay even in Leland's time, when its place was supplied by long elm trees laid over the gulph. Since the removal of these, all access is denied to men of any prudence; and we contented ourselves with a view of the ruins from the main land, without attempting to imitate the hardihood of our guide, who trod the pointed precipices, and skipped over their fissures, with the unconcern and agility of an Alpine hunter. We found the ascent into the ruins on the main sufficiently arduous; and as this was probably the only approach to them, even in the best of days, we went away with a full conviction that Tintagel Castle must have been in its original state one of the strongest specimens of ancient fortification in Britain.

The recorded history of this fortress may be included in a few lines: It continued to be a castle, and the occasional residence of the earls of Cornwall, to the time of Richard king of the Romans, who entertained his nephew David prince of Wales within its walls. After the death of Richard and his son Edmund, however, the sun of its glory set; its character was changed, and from a palace it became a prison. The crown got possession of it, when Burleigh, lord treasurer to Queen Elizabeth, thinking the charge of supporting it greater than the advantages resulting from it, withdrew the stipends allowed

for keeping it in repair, and Tintagel Castle sunk into ruins.

The rocks in the neighbourhood of this fortress afford abundance of fine slate. It is shipped off from a little creek at the bottom of the ravine above described; but as lofty precipices rear themselves on every side of this recess, except on that which is open to the ocean, the freight is lowered down by a crane and tackle, from the labourers above to the sailors below; all other means of loading the vessels being precluded by the singular character of the cove.

Of all the villages and towns of Cornwall which we had seen, we considered Tintagel as most dreary and exposed. Unsheltered and unornamented, its situation and aspect quite chilled us, and we could not help acknowledging there was some truth in the bold metaphorical remark of a London writer, who had strolled down to this corner of Cornwall, when we were there, that "to look at it was enough to give one the tooth-ach."* But what little influence

* The parsonage mansion (if our enquiry about some ruins near the village were answered with correctness) must have been a respectable building in former times. This at least we concluded from a Gothic gate-way and other remains we observed on the spot.

have the accidental circumstances of local situation on the minds of those who are accustomed to them. Happiness may be found at Tintagel, as well as in the most favoured spots.

- - - - - - - - " Quod petis hîc est,
" Est Ulubris; animus si non deficit æquus."

This I ought to have known, without learning it from a Cornish peasant; to whom I put the ironical question, " Whether Tintagel were not a *pleasant* " place in *winter?*" ' Yes, sir,' replied he, ' *we* ' think so; tis good enough for us; and were it ' not for the war and taxes, we should want nothing ' beyond what we have.' This is no flourish of the fancy; it was the actual and keen reproof of dignified content; proudly independent on those adventitious circumstances, without which minds less properly regulated than the honest labourer's would be miserable.

We did not quit the coast till we had visited Bossiney or Boss Castle, in hopes of finding some remains of the ancient castle of the Lord Botreaux, who formerly possessed an ample domain in this quarter, and gave name to the town where their chief residence was placed. But no vestige of the edifice was to be seen; and the only visible proof of its having existed was the circular mound on

which the keep formerly stood. As the heiress of this house was married in the time of Henry VI. to Robert Lord Hungerford, whose possessions lay a hundred miles to the eastward of Boss Castle, it is probable that this period was the æra of its decay. No attention was paid to so distant a mansion, and it soon sunk into ruins. A hill, a mile in length, opposed itself to our steeds when we left Bossiney, of bad omen, it seems, to the horses of these parts: for an honest peasant, who joined us as we panted up it, declared that it had broken the wind of more of these useful animals, than any other in Cornwall. From its summit the country began to mend, exhibiting the successful labours of man in a productive husbandry. Indeed, all the way from Padstow the inland view had been cheerful, spreading itself under the eye in an extensive valley, which, though naked of magnificent wood, was spotted with villages, churches, and little patches of trees.

To a believer in the personality of Arthur, the neighbourhood of CAMELFORD would be interesting from the circumstances of the battle said to have been fought here between the British chieftain and his treacherous nephew Mordred, in which the former was slain, and his forces routed. Camelford, however, exhibits no heroes or patriots now, for it has long been a *Cornish borough*. But though destitute

of public virtue, it pays due court to *fashion*. The maid of our inn, a very lovely girl, was dressed in the pink of the mode; and exhibited as much of her fair skin as any female paragon of the *Upper Rooms* could do. We observed, indeed, that this affectation in dress was not confined to her, but extended to every girl of the inferior classes that passed our window. The contrast was whimsical between such fashionable attire, and the wretched hovels in which the fine folks dwelt. Camelford, however, has one decent structure; the market-house, built by the late Duke of Bedford, in whom the borough vested. It is surrounded by a cupola, from which springs a *gilt* camel, serving the purposes of a weather-cock. W— pointed it out as a good emblem of the voters of Camelford, and its gaily-dressed females; the one *speechless*, and *patient* under every variation of the political atmosphere; and the other, *satisfied* by a little *external* splendour under the privation of almost all the comforts of life.

It was fortunate for us that our tour drew towards a conclusion, since the remaining part of Cornwall offers very little that is interesting to a traveller. In a tedious nine miles between Camelford and the dirty solitary inn at Wainhouse, nothing occurred to attract our attention, or divert us from the turnpike, except Werbstrow borough; about one mile to

the south-west of the latter place, an immense Roman camp, in good preservation; a vestige probably of the triumphs of Agricola, who in his fifth campaign in Britain seems first to have reduced Cornwall under the yoke of Rome. The country mended, indeed, as we approached Stratton; little patches of trees again greeted our eyes, and the road banks, high and shady, reminded us of Devonshire. The North sea, in the mean while, as if determined to afford us the pleasure of contrast, spread itself to the left into illimitable extent. It is to its shores, at this point of Cornwall, that the many gentry and the invalids from Launceston and other inland places of the eastern division of the county come to bathe, and breathe the sea air in the summer months. A decent inn and several neat lodging-houses afford them accommodation, at a little creek called Bude, about two miles from Stratton. The situation, indeed, of the village is not remarkably pleasant, as it stands on the borders of a long marsh; and not yet having arrived to the refinement of *bathing machines*, the *ladies* are put to some little inconvenience in performing the rites of immersion. As a Roman road (whose vestiges are still discernable in a causeway) once ran through Stratton, we had no doubt that the place received its name from this circumstance; which is both an abbreviation

and corruption of the *town of the street.* Its celebrity will probably be always confined to the fact of its having thus engaged the attention of the masters of the world; for at present there is nothing else in it that can fix the attention.

Desirous of knowing whether the *ecclesiastical dissentions* of Kilkhampton had been healed by the lapse of eight years,* we determined to ride thither, and then conclude our *Cornish tour.* The road for the first two miles conducted us through a beautiful woody glen, which to eyes long unacquainted with the beauties of sylvan scenery, afforded both relief and enjoyment. Tameness, however, succeeded for the remaining seven miles; but we did not repent our ride, when we found the bells of Kilkhampton again restored to their ancient managers, and the feuds of the sexton, clerk, and ringers, hushed into peace.

Though I have thus conducted you to the north-eastern extremity of Cornwall, I cannot relieve you immediately from the fatigue of my correspondence. Gratitude to the inhabitants of a county which has afforded me so much amusement, compels me to add to my last letter a few particulars which may more

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* Vide Warner's Western Walk, p. 137, 138.

fully illustrate the character of themselves and the district on which they reside, than the general observations scattered through my former pages.

You are already acquainted with the face and appearance of the country; and must have remarked that however valuable it may be in a commercial point of view, it can offer no claim to the praise of the picturesque or beautiful. As external charms, however, will bear no comparison with intrinsic worth, so the concealed riches of Cornwall make ample amends for the deformity of her exterior; and even those parts not enriched by mines excite some admiration, from the triumph which they exhibit of man's industry over a poor and scanty soil. The greatest length of the county is $78\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and its broadest diameter $43\frac{1}{4}$; an area including nearly 33,000 dwellings, and upwards of 189,000 inhabitants. A great part of this space is occupied by bare and rugged hills, descending into bleak and barren moors, and extending (in the narrowest part of the county) from one sea to the other. The districts less hostile to vegetation, are rendered productive by persevering labour, good husbandry, and the aid of marine manure,—the sand of the shores, and the weed of the beach. From its being nearly surrounded by the sea, the atmosphere of Cornwall is moist; but the mildness occasioned by the same

circumstance balances this inconvenience; and though the hills of the inland parts, and the lofty cliffs which breast its oceans, intercept the mists and clouds, and bring them down in frequent rains, yet the constant variation and violence of the winds which assault it from every quarter, prevent all pernicious stagnation of the air, and render it, possibly, the most healthy county in England.* The

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* Carew, who lived in Queen Elizabeth's reign, observes, touching the temperature of Cornwall, "the ayre thereof "is cleansed, as with bellowes, by the billows, and flowing "and ebbing of the sea, and therethrough becommeth pure "and subtle; and by consequence, healthfull. So as the "inhabitants do seldome take a ruthful and reaving expe- "rience of those harmes which infectious diseases use to "carry with them," p. 5; and again, p. 61, he remarks, "that eighty and ninety years of age was ordinary in every "place;" and among other instances of longevity, names one Polzew, who died a little while before he was writing, aged one hundred and thirty. Borlase also observes, that "Mr. "Scawen, a gentleman of no less veracity, in his MS. tells us, "that in the year 1676, died a woman in the parish of Gwy- "thien (the narrowest, and therefore, as to the air, to be reck- "oned among the saltest parts of this county) one hundred and "sixty-four years old, of good memory, and healthful at that "age; and at the Lizherd, where (exposed as this promontory "is to more sea on the east, west, and south, than any part "of Britain) the air must be as salt as any where, there are

only disadvantage resulting from these peculiarities of the atmosphere in Cornwall is, that the degree and continuance of the summer and autumnal heat appear to be insufficient to bring any grain, except barley, to complete maturity. The inhabitants of Cornwall, like their climate, are marked by peculiar features of character. Its men are sturdy† and bold, honest and sagacious; its women lovely and

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" three late instances of people living to a great age: The " first is Mr. Cole, late minister of Landawidnec, (in which " parish the Lizherd is) who by the parish register, A. D. " 1683, appears to have been above one hundred and twenty " year old when he died. Michael George, late sexton of " the same parish, buried the 20th of March, ibid. was more " than a hundred years old; and being at the Lizherd with " the Rev. and worthy Dr. Lyttelton, dean of Exeter, in the " year 1752, we went to see a venerable old man called " Collins; he was then one hundred and five years old, of a " florid countenance, stood near his door leaning on his staff, " talked sensibly, was weary of life he said, and advised us " never to wish for old age. He died in the year 1754."

† It is to be observed of the regiment of Cornish Militia, when at Chatham camp, in the time of Col. Molesworth, that they stood on more ground than any other militia of the same number of men. This was attributed to the *breadth of their shoulders*, which, in comparison with the Eastern men, was uncommonly striking.—*Polwhele.*

modest, courteous and unaffected. Their hospitality was a subject of encomium as far back as the time Diodorus Siculus;* nor had we reason to think that the lapse of eighteen centuries had diminished this virtue amongst them in the slightest degree. The fair complexion and light hair of a large proportion of the population proved their Celtic extraction ;† though we observed towards the western extremity of the county many instances of so remarkable a deviation from this general personal appearance, as convinced us, there must have been, at sometime or other, an importation of a *breed* into the county very different to its original inhabitants. The persons I allude to are not indeed very numerous ; but of features sufficiently marked to be readily distinguished from the genuine Cornish. They are characterized by large black eyes, hair of

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* Τῶν γὰρ Βρεττανικῆς κατὰ τὸ ἀκρωτήριον τὸ καλούμενον Βολερίον οἱ κατοικοῦντες φιλόξενοί τε διαφερόντως εἰσι.. Those who live near a promontory of Britain called Bolerium, are peculiarly hospitable. Lib. v. p. 301. It was a remark of Queen Elizabeth, "that the Cornish gentlemen were all born courtiers, with a "becoming confidence."—*Borlase's Nat. Hist.* p. 304.

† Ταῖς δὲ ταξὶ καθιγροὶ καὶ λευκοὶ—
Ταῖς δὲ κομαῖς ἐκδυτέως ξανθοὶ *Il.*

the same colour, and swarthy complexions. A contrast so decided as this, evidently points at some peculiar cause, and requires an explanation. But where shall we obtain it? I am too much prejudiced in favour of the county to consider these people as descendants of the *Jews*, who settled in some numbers in Cornwall in the twelfth century. I would fain give them a more ancient and honourable origin; and I shall not, perhaps, find much difficulty in effecting this to your satisfaction. I have before remarked, it is extremely *probable*, from the intimate intercourse which so long subsisted between the Cornish and Cadizians, that the latter people would form settlements on various parts of the western coasts of the county. I would now, however, go further, and aver, that this is nearly *demonstrable* from the *names* of several places towards this point, which are *genuine Hebrew*,* and could only have

* Such as *Paran-zabulon*,—*Phillack*,—*Menachan*,—*Zephon*,—*Bonithon*,—*Marah-zion*, (if it be not a corruption of another name,) &c. &c. That the language of the Cadizians, who visited the coast of Cornwall, was a dialect of Hebrew, may be fairly inferred from this single circumstance, viz. that Hebrew was the vernacular tongue of the Carthaginians, which they had brought with them from Phœnicia, and which consequently their colonists carried with them to any place in

been imposed by people to whom that language was familiar. The Cadizians, we have seen, were a colony from Carthage; and Carthage, we know, was peopled from Tyre. It is needless to observe

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which they formed a settlement. Of the identity, or at least intimate connection of the Hebrew and Carthaginian languages, we have a most curious proof, in the *Pœnulus* of Plautus. Vide quarto Delph. edit. In this play, Hanno, a Carthaginian, is represented as having had two daughters, who had been surprized and carried off by Pyrates, together with their nurse, and sold to a person of Calydon, in Ætolia. Having travelled a long time in search of his children, Hanno at length reached the place where they are, and is made by the poet to invoke the tutelary deities of the country in his own language. The commencement of his speech is as follows:

Ny ethalonim valon uth si corathisima consith.

On these words the learned Selden, makes the following observations: "Tam clara hcic Ebraismi vestigia sunt, ut "cætera, quæ depravatissima ibi sequuntur, eidem etiam "idiotismo restitui debere merito censeas. Et quæ attuli- "mus, Hannonis exaranda forsan erant, ei qui sermonem "illum a lepidissimo Poeta illuc traductum librarius primum "transcripserit, his pæne syllabis;

Na ethelionim velionoth se quara otham makom hazoth;

"quæ parum a corruptis Plautinis exemplaribus dissident si "ineptas scilicet juncturas, atque imperitas verborum dis- "tinctiones tollas; et *Consith* in veteribus nonnullis editioni-

that the features and complexion of the people of Palestine were similar to those which I have just mentioned as characterizing some of the inhabitants of Cornwall, and it would be equally unnecessary

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" bus *comzet* legitur, quod proprius accedit. Sic autem " merè Ebraica sunt; et rythmus ab eum quem protulimus " sonum ita scribendus;

נא את עליונים ועליוגית
שקרא אתם מקום אזאת:

" Id est, si verbum verbo reddideris

" Obsecro superos superasque
" Quibus contingit locus iste."

Sel. de Diis Syris. Prolegomena. 19

I am not ignorant that Coll. Vallency and Sir Lawrence Parsons, in an honourable zeal for the antiquity of their own country, have enlisted the Punic fragments of Plautus in their cause, and by *improved readings* have assimilated them very much to the ancient Irish language. But granting that they are justified in their alterations, there still remains even in *these*, too great a resemblance to the Hebrew, to leave a doubt on the mind of the affinity between the two. The probability, indeed is, that both Selden and the Irish antiquaries are right; that the Punic was the *lineal* descendant; and the Celtic, a *collateral* branch of the Phœnician; and that both had their origin either immediately, or indirectly, from the Hebrew or Chaldee, THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF MAN.

to remark, that if they settled there, they must leave descendants who would inherit the same personal peculiarities. Such is my explication of the ænigma; I know not what value it will have in your esteem, but it satisfies *my* mind, because it saves the honour of my friends.

Nothing proves the natural understanding and sagacity of the inhabitants of Cornwall more than the number of provincial proverbs which are floating amongst them; the results of good sense, and nice observation acting upon experience; applying to the transactions of public as well as private life; and including both axioms of political wisdom, and maxims of moral conduct. Amongst the former we may enumerate the following: *Cows nebas, cows da, nebas an yevern yw an gwella:* Speak little, speak well; little of public matters is best. *Nyn ges gún heb lagas, na kei heb scovern:* There is no down without an eye, nor hedge without ears. *Cows nebas, cows da, ha da veth cowsas arta:* Speak little, speak well, and well be spoken again.—From the adages which enforce common prudence and morality, we may select these: *Guel yw guetha vel goosen:* It is better to keep than to beg. *Neb na gare y gwyan coll restouas:* He that heeds not gain, must expect loss. *Neb na gare y gy, an gwra deveeder:* He that regards not his dog, will make him

a sheep-killer. *Gura da, rag ta honan te yn gura:* Do good; for thyself thou doest it. *Po rez deberra an bez, vidu heerath a sem; po res dal an vor, na oren pan a tu, thuryan, houl zethas, go gleth, po dehow:* When thou comest into the world, length of sorrow follows; when thou beginnest the way, 'tis not known which side; to the east or west, to the north or south. *Der taklow minniz ew brez teez gonvethes, avelan taklow broaz; dreffen en tacklow broaz, ma en gymennow hetha go honnen; bus in tacklow minnis, ema en gye suyah haz go honnen*: By small things are the minds of men discovered better than by great matters; because in great things they will accommodate themselves, but in small matters they follow their own nature.

I have adduced these traditionary sayings amongst the Cornish, not only as proofs of the popular wisdom of the county, but as specimens of a language which, if not totally extinguished, has long ceased to be the vehicle of oral communication, and is now retained in the recollection of only one or two individuals.* Its analogy to the old Welsh will instantly

* It should seem from Mr. Whitaker's account, that the ancient Cornish is still known to two persons in the county. "I even heard in my visit to the west, of two persons still "alive that could speak the Cornish language. On my offer

suggest the intimate connection that originally subsisted between the two; and satisfy us, that, like the Irish, Erse, Armorican, and Cambrian languages, it is nothing more than a dialect of the ancient Celtic or Gaelic.† Almost hypothetical as its ex-

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" of English money for Cornish words, to the men at the " Land's-End, they referred me to an old man living about " three miles off to the south, at St. Levan, (I think,) a " second chapelry with St. Sennan, in the parish of St. Burian; " and intimated, that I might there have as many words of " Cornish as I would chuse to purchase. On my return " also to Penzance, Mr. Broad, (captain of a volunteer com- " pany of sea-fencibles,) additionally assured me, that there " was a woman then living at Newlyn, who could equally " speak Cornish."—*Polwhele's Hist. Corn.* vol. iii. sup. 42.

† Daines Barrington says, " My brother, Captain (now " Admiral) Barrington, who brought with him a French East- " India ship into Mount's Bay, A. D. 1746, told me, that " when he sailed from thence on a cruize towards the French " coast, he took with him from that part of Cornwall a sea- " man who spoke the Cornish language, and who was under- " stood by some French seamen of the coast of Bretagne, " with whom he afterwards happened to have occasion to " converse."—*Archæologia*, vol. iii. p. 280. We were told at Truro, that fifty years ago two Welsh gentlemen who were in that town, being introduced to a Cornish man that spoke the old language of that county, had a conversation with him in their respective tongues, and that they were very intelligible to each other.

istence is at present, yet so late as the time of Henry VIII. it was the universal dialect of the county, and Dr. John Moreman, vicar of Menhynnet, towards the conclusion of that reign, was the first who taught his parishioners the Lord's Prayer, Creed, and Ten Commandments, in the English tongue. It is a curions exception to that general rule of the attachment manifested by nations or provinces to their vernacular language, that the Cornish, at the Reformation, requested to have the liturgy in English, rather than in their mother tongue. The request was complied with, and the service in most places performed thenceforth in English. A few parishes, however, patriotically preferred their native dialect; and, in 1640, Mr. William Jackson, vicar of Pheoke, found himself under the necessity of administering the sacrament in Cornish, as his parishioners understood no other language. From this period its limits were gradually circumscribed, as its trade and intercourse with England increased; so that a century since it was only to be found, as a vehicle of conversation, amongst the inhabitants of Paul's and St. Just, in the western extremity of the county.* Mr. Daines Barrington made a journey

* Mr. Ray, in his Itineraries, p. 281, tells us, "that Mr. "Dickan Gwyn was considered as the only person who could

into Cornwall, in search of its remains, in 1768, but could find only one person, Dolly Pentreath, an old fisher-woman, at Mousehole, who spoke Cornish.† It is evident, from more recent researches, that his enquiries were not so successful as they might have been, had he possessed more knowledge than he did of the subject that engaged his attention;* but their result may also convince us that

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" then *write* in the Cornish language, and who lived in one " of the most western parishes, called St. Just, where there " were few but what could speak English; whilst few of the " children also could speak Cornish, so that the language " would soon be entirely lost."—*Archæol.* vol. iii. p. 279.

† She died in January 1778, at Mousehole, aged 102.

* Mr. Barrington has given us the following account of his expedition to Dolly Pentreath's cottage, and his interview with the venerable poissard: " I set out from Penzance, with " the landlord of the principal inn for my guide, towards " the Sennan, or most western point, and when I approached " the village, I said, that there must probably be some " remains of the language in those parts, if any where, as the " village was in the road to no place whatsoever; and the " only ale-house announced itself to be *the last in England.* " My guide, however, told me, that I should be disappointed; " but that if I would ride ten miles about in my return to " Penzance, he would carry me to a village, called Mouse- " hole, on the western side of Mount's Bay, where there was " an old woman, called Dolly Pentreath, who could speak

forty years ago the faculty of speaking the language was exceedingly limited. Notwithstanding our most assiduous enquiries, we were unable to discover any one who spoke it at present; though from Whitaker's account, we had no doubt that it still lurked in some hole or corner, arrived to the last fluttering pulse of its existence, and doomed probably to give up the ghost, without being again

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" Cornish very fluently. Whilst we were travelling together " towards Mousehole, I enquired how he knew that this " woman spoke Cornish, when he informed me, that he fre- " quently went from Penzance to Mousehole to buy fish, " which were sold by her; and that when he did not offer a " price which was satisfactory, she grumbled to some other " old women in an unknown tongue, which he concluded " therefore to be the Cornish.—When we reached Mouse- " hole, I desired to be introduced as a person who had laid a " wager that there was no one who could converse in Cornish; " upon which Dolly Pentreath spoke in an angry tone of " voice for two or three minutes, and in a language which " sounded very like Welsh.—The hut in which she lived was " in a very narrow lane, opposite to two rather better cot- " tages, at the doors of which two other women stood, who " were advanced in years, and who I observed were laughing " at what Dolly Pentreath said to me.—Upon this I asked " them whether she had not been abusing me; to which they " answered, *very heartily, and because I had supposed she* " *could not speak Cornish.* I then said, that they must be " able to talk the language; to which they answered, that

brought forward into public notice. With the disappearance of their language, the Cornish have lost almost all those provincial peculiarities in customs and amusements, which distinguished them from the inhabitants of other English counties. Their dangerous wrestling and hurling matches are now of much rarer occurrence than heretofore; the *spirit* of *sport* has nearly evaporated, and that of industry supplied its place. The occupations in the mining countries fill up the time of those engaged in them too effectually to allow leisure for prolonged revels, or frequent festivities; and in the other parts of Cornwall, the constant pursuits of steady labour have banished the traditional times and seasons of vulgar riot and dissipation. Though the

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"they could not speak it readily; but that they understood "it, being only ten or twelve years younger than Dolly Pen- "treath. I continued nine or ten days in Cornwall after "this; but found that my friends, whom I had left to the "the eastward, continued as incredulous almost as they were "before, about these last remains of the Cornish language, "because (amongst other reasons) Dr. Borlase had supposed, "in his Natural History of the county, that it had entirely "ceased to be spoken; it was also urged, that as he lived "within four or five miles of the old woman at Mousehole, "he consequently must have heard of so singular a thing as "her continuing to use the vernacular tongue."—*Archæol.* vol. iii. p. 180, 182.

husbandry of the Cornish be not yet arrived to that systematic excellence which many other counties can boast; yet of their *dairies* let no man speak but in terms of the highest eulogy. If the praise of Herefordshire cider, and Oxford ale, deserve to be sung in Miltonic verse,* the *Clouted Cream*† of Cornwall puts in still more *substantial* claims to the notice of the lofty muse. Devonshire had regaled us with this delicious article, before we reached Cornwall, but as soon as we had tasted the clouted cream of the latter, accompanied by the excellent coffee which we found at every inn throughout the county, we acknowledged it was only *here* that this production could be had in perfection.

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* Philips, and T. Warton.

† The usual method of making Clouted Cream is as follows: The milk is suffered to stand twelve hours, or longer if necesary, till the cream, which naturally separates from it, float to its surface. It is then put over a *charcoal stove,* (an improvement upon the method of the old housewives, who performed the process over the kitchen fire, whence it contracted a smoaky taste,) and submitted to a heat that produces boiling as nearly as possible. Here it continues till it be thoroughly scalded, when it is taken off, returned to the dairy, and in about ten or twelve hours a thick crust of cream rises to the surface of the vessel, which is the excellent article in question.

The varied luxuries of the Cornubian dairies, indeed, were so delicious, as greatly to increase our respect and value for the gentle beast by whose udder they were supplied ; and we should, without the least hesitation, have placed the *cow* at the head of the English domesticated animals, had we not recollected the many and powerful claims of the *horse* to this preference ; who not only administers to our pleasure, convenience, and ease; performs with willingness the drudgery appointed him to compleat ; enhances the pleasure of our sports, and accelerates the transactions of our business ; but, what is more than all, conveys us, with rapidity and safety, when separated from it by distance, into the bosom of that family, without whose participation no enjoyment can be complete; without whose society, novelty itself soon ceases to interest ; and all that is beautiful, gay, and magnificent in external nature, if it do not become insipid, loses at least half its power to charm.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

R. W.

In addition to the facts produced in favour of the migration of Woodcocks, I had forgotten, whilst mentioning that subject, to adduce a circumstance relative to the history of this bird, as connected with the Land's-End, which would greatly have strengthened the affirmative of the question. We were told by our guide that two winters ago, the wind suddenly shifting to the north-east, when these birds were on their passage to England, and blowing strongly from that quarter, the poor voyagers were exhausted before they could reach the land, and falling into the sea, were drowned, drifted on shore, and picked up, in vast numbers, by the peasantry. A modern poet has prettily adverted to a casualty, which it should seem, not unfrequently attends the migration of the woodcock.

- - - - - - - - " Ill fares it with him then,
" On stormy seas mid-way surpriz'd: no land,
" Its swelling breast presents, where safe reclin'd
" His panting heart might find a short repose;
" But wide around, the hoarse resounding sea
" Meets his dim-eye. Should some tall ship appear

" High-bounding o'er the waves, urg'd by despair,
" He seeks the rocking masts, and throws him down
" Amid the twisted cordage:—thence repell'd,
" If instant blows deprive him not of life,
" He flutters weakly on, and drops at last,
" Helpless and flound'ring, in the whit'ning surge."

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